

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE



Fifth Report of the Senate Fact-Finding Committee On Un-American Activities

1949

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People's Songs has sent delegated representatives to the Prague conference of the Communist World Youth Festival. Michael Scott and Ernie Lieberman were selected as its delegates.

Communist cultural groups are establishing so-called work shops throughout the Country to promote People's Songs and Stage for Action productions. They are also penetrating legitimate work shops of culture by planting their ready-made "cultural" wares therein.

Your committee finds that People's Songs is a vital Communist front in the conduct of the strategy and tactics of the Communist Anti-Imperialist War technique of the Seventh Period of Communist strategy in America, and one which has spawned a horde of lesser fronts in the fields of music, stage, entertainment, choral singing, folk dancing, recording, radio transcriptions and similar fields.

It especially is important to Communist proselyting and propaganda work because of its emphasis on appeal to youth and because of its organization and technique to provide entertainment for organizations and groups as a smooth opening wedge for Marxist-Leninist-Stalinist propaganda.

XVIII. PRESS NETWORKS

The life-blood of the Communist conspiracy is the party's press and publishing businesses. Through their newspapers, magazines, books, symposiums, pamphlets, handbills and analytical publications, the Communists train and educate their converts in Marxism-Leninism-Stalinism; and, at the same time, they spread their propaganda to confuse, disrupt and divide. (See also, Pages 381-409, and 615-636.)

The Communist press and publication system in the United States is comprehensive, well-financed and efficient. Making use of the network of Communist organizations and front groups it is able to systematically and scientifically circulate Communist publications and propaganda throughout the length and breadth of the United States.

The gigantic propaganda apparatus of Fascism and Nazism at its peak never approached the efficient and extensive operation of the network of Red Fascist propaganda.

Equally important with the task of proselyting carried on by the Communist press, is the fundamental requirement for machinery and methods for attack and smear. Anyone who opposes or exposes the Communist conspiracy must be destroyed.

A continuous program of character assassination is conducted by the Communist publication-system designed to discredit anyone who attacks or exposes Communism. Public officials and law enforcement agencies are to be constantly smeared and discredited in the minds of members of mass organizations.

The Communist propaganda system, combined with the nation-wide network of publications, information exchange, special writers, and services is so comprehensive and integrated that the average leadership of organized groups in America today is totally unequipped to cope with its flood of propaganda.

Communists are so efficiently disciplined that they are able to organize a propaganda campaign on a few hours notice. They will produce publications, press releases, plant Red propaganda in all media, and circulate resolutions, protests, denunciations and confusing reports on any subject on short notice.

The *Daily Worker* is published by Freedom of the Press, Inc., New York City. Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., is president; Howard Boldt, secretary-treasurer; John Gates, editor; Milton Howard, associate editor; Alan Max, managing editor; Robert F. Hall, Washington, D. C., editor; Bill Lawrence, general manager; and George C. Sandy, assistant manager. David Platt is film editor.

The Worker, published only on Sunday, has the same management and publisher as the *Daily Worker*. (See Plate 4, Page 619.)

Political Affairs, a monthly publication, is published by the New Century Publishers, New York, N. Y. The editor is Max Weiss; associate editors, V. J. Jerome, Alex Bittleman, Abner W. Berry, and Jack Stachel. *Political Affairs* is direct successor to *The Communist*.

Morning Freiheit is published daily by the Morning Freiheit Association, Inc., New York, N. Y. The president is Ben Gold; treasurer, J. Littinski; secretary, Alex Bittleman. Paul Novick is editor.

People's Daily World is published by the Pacific Publishing Foundation, Inc., San Francisco, California. Branches are located in Los Angeles, Oakland, San Diego, Seattle, and Washington, D. C. The executive editor is Al Richmond; assistant editor, Adam Lapin; Los Angeles editor, Sidney Burke; business manager, Harry Kramer; and circulation manager, Leo Baroway. Doug Ward is political editor. Tara Jean Pettit is the agent in Los Angeles. (See Plate 4, Page 619.)

Soviet Russia Today, a monthly magazine, is published by the Soviet Russia Today Publications, Inc., New York, N. Y. The editor is Jessica Smith; assistant editor, Andrew Voynow; business manager, Donald Schoalman; literary editor, Isadore Schneider; editorial board, Dorothy Brewster, Robert Dunn, Thyra Edwards, A. A. Heller, Langston Hughes, Dr. John Kingsbury, Corliss Lamont, George Marshall, Isobel Walker Soule, and Maxwell S. Stewart.

Fraternal Outlook is published monthly by the International Workers Order, New York, N. Y. President is Rockwell Kent; vice presidents, John E. Middleton, Vito Marcantonio, Louise Thompson, Boleslaw Gebert, and Rubin Saltzman; treasurer, Peter Shipka; executive secretary, Sam Milgrom; and recording secretary, Dave Green.

The Chart, with offices in New York, N. Y., was issued by the National Organization and Education Commissions of the Communist Party of the United States. Jack Stachel is chairman of the education commission, and Henry Winston is chairman of the organization commission.

Masses & Mainstream is printed in New York, N. Y., by Mainstream Associates, Inc. The editor-in-chief is Samuel Sillen. The editors are Gwendolyn Bennett, Alvah Bessie, Milton Blau, Arnaud D'Usseau, Howard Fast, Mike Gold, V. J. Jerome, Howard Lawson, Meridel LeSeuer, W. L. River, Dalton Trumbo, and Theodore Ward.

People's Voice (Glos Ludowy), with offices in Detroit, Mich., is a semi-monthly publication. It is a foreign-language paper as well, known as Glos Ludowy. The editor is Thomas Dombrowski; contributing editor,

Jan Kujawa, San Francisco; contributing editors, Cornell Z. Zagodzinski, Casimir T. Nowacki, Irene Pictrowski, Grace Nowacki, Walter Bills, Stanley Perry, Blanche Glinski, John Piorkowski, Martin Darvin, Ted Pniewski, Katherine Giermanski, Jetka Dobrzynska, and Joseph S. Rabowski.

Railroad Workers' Link was published by the Communist Party in New York, N. Y., as a monthly publication. The editor was Robert Wood.

District Champion was published by the city committee of the Communist Party of the District of Columbia, with offices located in Washington, D. C. It is published monthly. The editor is William C. Taylor; secretary, Elizabeth Searle.

Chicago Star was published weekly by the Chicago Star Publishing Co., Inc., Chicago, Ill. Members of the board of directors were Ernest De Maio, Frank M. Davis, William L. Patterson, Grant Oakes, and William Sennett. The executive editor was Frank M. Davis; managing editor, Carl Hirsch; and general manager, William Sennett. Howard Fast was a columnist, and Rockwell Kent a contributing editor.

Teeners' Topics, published irregularly, was an American Youth for Democracy publication, with offices located in New York, N. Y.

Teen Life was published by New Age Publishers, Inc., in Meriden, Conn., for American Youth for Democracy.

Crisis was the organ of the East Pittsburgh section of the Communist Party.

Jewish Life, New York, N. Y., is published monthly by the Morning Freiheit Association, Inc. The editorial board is composed of Alex Bittleman, Moses Miller, Paul Novick, Sam Pevzner, and Morris U. Schappes. Managing editor is Samuel Barron.

Woman Power is published monthly by the Congress of American Women in New York, N. Y. Members of the editor board are Edna Moss, Bert Sigred, and Eleanor Vaughn. The president is Gene Weltfish; executive vice president, Muriel Draper; treasurer, Helen Phillips; and secretary, Josephine Timms.

Facts for Farmers was published monthly by the Farm Research, New York, N. Y. The editor was Charles J. Coe.

Facts for Women was published monthly by Facts for Women, Los Angeles, California. The editor was Mary Inman.

Reporter, a biweekly publication, is published by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Inc., New York, N. Y. The editor is William H. Melish.

Among Friends is published monthly by Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, New York, N. Y. The editor is David McKelvy White; managing editor, Rex Pitkin. Contributors include Louis Fischer, Dorothy Parker, Ernest Hemingway, Grace Field, Lini Fuhr, Sam Kornblatt, Milly Bennett, and Herbert Hunter.

Amerasia was published monthly by Amerasia, New York, N. Y. The editors are Philip Jaffe and Kate L. Mitchell.

Congress View was published monthly by the National Negro Congress, New York, N. Y. The president was Max Yergen; executive secretary, Edward E. Strong; treasurer, Ferdinand C. Smith; secretary, Thelma Dale; labor and legislation director, Dorothy K. Funn; director of publicity, Mayme Brown; editorial board, W. Alphaeus Hunton, Frederick V. Field, Mayme Brown, and Elizabeth Catlett.

The Young Communist League followed the complete pattern of the Communist organizations for adults up to 1943. It openly proclaimed the need for revolutionary overthrow of government by force and violence and supported and defended the Soviet Union. It penetrated our schools and universities, and was especially active in the promotion of student peace movements.

Many California Communists were prominent in this youth front.

Celeste Strack was student secretary of the Young Communist League and high school secretary of the American Student Union. She represented the American Student Union and the Young Communist League in the American Youth Congress.

Carl Ross and Gil Green were the national representatives of the Young Communist League in the American Youth Congress.

Angelo Herndon represented the National Negro Congress in the American Youth Congress.

American Youth Congress published a magazine entitled *Winner*, the editor of which was Barry Wood, the Communist Party name for Jeff Kibre, well-known party leader in California.

AMERICAN YOUTH FOR DEMOCRACY

On October 17, 1943, a special convention of the Young Communist League was held at Mecca Temple, New York City. The name of the organization was changed to American Youth for Democracy. In the issue of the *Communist* for September, 1943, the president of the Young Communist League called for a change of the name of the group in order to enable the organization to function more efficiently for the duration of the war.

On November 11, 1943, a meeting was held in San Francisco to hear a report on the Young Communist League convention. Among those who spoke were Rev. Morgan A. Tabb, Miss Jean Addis, Mrs. Robert Miller Green (formerly Betty McGregor of the Young Communist League), Miss Annabel Hopkins and Andrew Barrigan.

In December of 1943 the San Francisco sponsors of American Youth for Democracy were published. Among those listed were Bartley Crum and Dr. Thomas Addis of Stanford University.

The first California state convention of American Youth for Democracy was held in the North Star Auditorium, 631 West Adams Boulevard, Los Angeles, on May 6 and 7, 1944. Among those who spoke were Dr. Thomas Addis, Bartley Crum, Philip M. Connelly, and John Howard Lawson.

The first Los Angeles County convention was held on July 8, 1945, at Park Manor, 2200 West Seventh Street, Los Angeles. Among the speakers was Jerry Pacht. An Intercollegiate Council was proposed calling for members from each college where a unit of American Youth for Democracy was organized. The educational institutions listed were University of California at Los Angeles, California Technical Institute, and Los Angeles City College.

During the agitational activities of the Communist front, Mobilization for Democracy, American Youth for Democracy members volunteered to distribute 100,000 handbills for the organization.

During the 1945 and 1946 Communist dominated motion picture strikes American Youth for Democracy members volunteered to do picket

duty and a spokesman for the organization announced that all units would be contacted for strike duty in the picket line.

On December 31, 1944, Albert Dekker acted as master of ceremonies at an American Youth for Democracy birthday fete at the Hollywood-Roosevelt Hotel, where telegraphic greetings were read from Robert W. Kenny. Honored guests were Congressmen Ellis E. Patterson and Ned Healy. Among those present were Rex Ingram, Dalton Trumbo, Albee Slade, Rev. Raymond Henderson and Willis J. Hill.

American Youth for Democracy followed the Communist Party line assiduously. A press release from the organization's headquarters, 1201 S. Alvarado Street, Los Angeles, under date of July 2, 1947, stated its position on military training. *Focus on Youth, American Youth for Democracy* publication, issue for July 1, 1947, carried the caption "Wallace Blasts Youth Conscription as Wedge for Wall Street—Army Rule."

A letterhead of the organization under date of May 30, 1944, shows the headquarters at 701 Broadway Arcade Building. The letter in the files of the committee is signed by Elaine Rose, field secretary.

The Communist Party line of the American Youth for Democracy is obvious in most of its leaflets. One such leaflet in the files of this committee reads, in part, as follows:

The issue is thought control vs. intellectual freedom on our campuses. The issue is youth security or another generation of youth betrayed. We know our enemies—the men who want to jail Henry Wallace for opposing the "Truman Doctrine" * * * the men who preach hysteria, war, union busting. While A.Y.D. is the most direct target, the actual objective is reactionary dictation to our entire educational system, and the betrayal of all American youth.

A letter under date of January 8, 1946, signed by Meyer Frieden, showed the address of the organization as 408 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles 13, telephone MUTual 5307. Jeanette Salve is listed as chairman. Recording secretary is Lee Herendeen. Student secretary is Vicki Landish. The vice chairmen are Sue Scherr, Gene Gardner, Nena Ackerman, and Bob Zakon.

The state officers in 1945 were James Logan, Vivien Levin, Bill Lowe, Nancy Rosenfield, Katie Corboff (or Korboff), and Dash McMichael.

The state council was composed of Jean Addis, Reeva Cluen, Fred Toy, Betty Green (McGregor), Pearl Pinson, Rachael Reis, Elbert Bass, Harriet Moskowitz, Ding Rossi, Eloise Steel, and Helen Lude.

San Diego officers were Jackie Smith, Frank Crump, Barbara Richardson, Camille Barkan, and Johnny Peacock.

Marin County officers were Ann Tompkins and Pierre Patri.

East Bay officers were Sandra Martin, Meyer Frieden, Irvin Gostin, Vicki Landish, Norma Pittman, Mary Sherwood, Paul Dudrov, Pearl Glazer, Geraldine Brownlow, George Stankert, and Elaine Mitchell.

Los Angeles officers were Kelly Mink, Sam Young, Elaine Rose, Patti Zimmerman, Gloria Gervin, Helene Powell, Steve Stanford, Isabel Baron, Sybil Goldenberg, Martha Freeman, Francis Herrera, Bob Hamilton, Ida Bodin, Bill Jenkins, Harriette Goodman, Jeannette Salve, and Carolyn Hassell.

Robert Thompson was the national cochairman of the American Youth for Democracy. He was formerly a national vice president of the Young Communist League. He has been a contributor to the Communist *Daily Worker*. He was a member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. The *Young Communist Review* of April, 1938, described Thompson as the

"leading Y.C.L. figure in California." In 1938, Robert Thompson was a member of the National Council of the Young Communist League.

Carl Ross became national Executive Secretary of American Youth for Democracy when it was launched in October, 1943. For more than five years prior to that time, he had been national Executive Secretary of the Young Communist League. He was affiliated with such Communist front organizations as the American Youth Congress and the World Youth Congress.

Claudia Jones was the editor of the official magazine of the American Youth for Democracy, *Spotlight*. She was formerly an associate editor of the official organ of the Young Communist League, *Weekly Review*. She was a member of the National Council of the Young Communist League. Claudia Jones presently faces deportation as an undesirable alien seeking the overthrow of the Government of the United States.

Leo Cooper was managing editor of *Spotlight*, the official magazine of American Youth for Democracy. He formerly was the managing editor of the *Weekly Review*, the official organ of the Young Communist League.

Celeste Strack became the Executive Secretary of American Youth for Democracy in California. She was formerly a member of the National Council of the Young Communist League. She ran for Congress on the Communist Party ticket in 1940.

The following (*Spotlight*, April, 1944) were national sponsors of American Youth for Democracy: Henry Armstrong, Charlotte Hawkins Brown, John M. Coffee, Frank Marshall Davis, Howard Fast, A. Eustace Haydon, William H. Holly, Langston Hughes, John Howard Lawson, Kirtley F. Mather, H. P. Marley, F. Mathiessen, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Minerva Pius, Charles S. Seely, William B. Spofford, D. J. Struik, William Jay Schieffelin, Teddy Wilson, Mary E. Woolley, and Mary McLeod Bethune.

The national headquarters of American Youth for Democracy are located at 150 Nassau Street, Room 412, New York City. The cochairmen of the organization were Robert Thompson and Naomi Ellison. The executive secretary is Carol Ross. Winifred Norman and John Gallo were vice chairmen. The secretary-treasurer was W. Robert McCarthy. Others connected with the national set-up were Henry Cooperstock, Terry Grabel, Vivian Levin, Leo Rifkin, Beryl Michaelson, Jimmie Schlecker, Nettie Selling, Everett C. Thomas, and Leon Wolfsy.

Among American Youth for Democracy members who were also connected with the Communist Party or the Young Communist League, are the following: Pauline Annonc, Warren Brown, Fay Caller (alias Fay Caller Vedro), Frank Cestare, Leo Cooper, Margaret Delehante, Jack Epstein, Francis Franklin, John Gallo, Claudia Jones, John Hudson Jones, Adeline Kohl, David Livingston, Daisy Lolich, Bill Mardo, Robert McCarthy, Carl Ross, Lillian Ross, Phillip Schatz, Herbert Signer, Marcella Sloane, Celeste Strack, Everett Thomas, Robert Thompson, Max Weiss, Thelma Weiss, James West, and Leon Wolfsy.

Subsidiary Communist fronts created by American Youth for Democracy, include Sweethearts of Service Men, Friends of the Campus, and World Federation of Democratic Youth. Pauline Annonc, and Naomi Ellison were active in Sweethearts of Service Men. The "boy friend" of