Excerpts from the FBI file on Harry Hay

Red in Bed: It Takes a Communist to Recognize Gay Oppression

It’s been a long time since many Americans looked up to Joseph Stalin. But from the time gay-movement founder Harry Hay joined the Communist Party in 1934 to his departure sixteen years later, he did. Hay even got married to satisfy Uncle Joe, which was a real tribute, because Hay had been an active homosexual since he was nine.

Stalin didn’t much like homosexuals. Although the Bolsheviks decriminalized homosexual acts in 1918, sixteen years later, the dictator acted personally to reverse that liberal development. After 1934, the Soviets treated homosexuality as the decadent product of bourgeois culture, punishable by years at hard labor.


The quote comes from a 1953 article by Arthur Guy Matthews, “Homosexuality Is Stalin’s Atom Bomb to Destroy America,” Physical Culture, April 1953. He wrote the book, Is Homosexuality a Menace? A Revealing Examination of Sex Deviation by a Physician and Criminologist.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

LOS ANGELES

DATE WHEN MADE: 6/12/13

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 2/16/13 TO 3/22/43

REPORT MADE BY: b6

CHARACTER OF CASE: CUSTODIAL DETENTION - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

(U) Subject attended meetings of the Joe Hill Branch of the Henry Eaton Section of the Los Angeles County Communist Party with source B during month of March to May 1943, at which time subject was Branch Educational Director. According to Source A, subject joined the Communist Party in 1934 as KAREN HUNTER. He later dropped out, and rejoined the Communist Party in April 1938, at which time he became active in the writers' group in Hollywood. Until May 27, 1943, subject was employed as a senior material planner by the Interstate Aircraft and Engineering Corporation, Los Angeles, California.

DETAILS:

This report is predicated upon information received from Source B that Subject is a member of the Los Angeles County Communist Party.

ADDRESS:

Residence address: 2238 Lakeshore Drive
Los Angeles, California
Telephone: NOrmandie 7994

Business address: Interstate Aircraft and Eng. Corp.
3½ W Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 09-08-2010

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES
DATE WHEN MADE 2/23/54
PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/18-20/53
1/26; 2/2-5, 15/54
REPORT MADE BY LOUIS K. DE GEUS PCW

CHARACTER OF CASE \[\text{NA}\]
SECURITY RATING - C

SUMMARY REPORT

Subject joined the Communist Party in Los Angeles, California, in the spring of 1934, but subsequently dropped out. He re-joined the Communist Party in Los Angeles in 1939, and was a member thereof in early 1950. Subject has also been active in or in connection with such organizations or publications as the Daily People's World, New Theatre League, Hollywood Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council, EARL ROBBINSON Chorus, and the Independent Progressive Party. Subject's physical description set forth.

All informants designated in this report by "T" symbols are of known reliability unless otherwise indicated.

BACKGROUND

BIRTH DATA

Records of the Interstate Aircraft and Engineering Corporation
3434 Wilshire Boulevard,
Los Angeles, California

HARRY HAY was born April 7, 1912 at Worthing,
T-7

In April, 1938, subject resided at 940 South Windsor Boulevard, Los Angeles, California.

T-1

Subject has resided as follows:

October, 1940

35-30 61st Street, Jackson Heights, New York

Sometime prior to
May 1, 1942

542 Sixth Avenue, New York City

May, 1942

2238 Lake Shore Avenue, Los Angeles.

T-8

As of July, 1945, subject was residing at 2328 Cove Avenue, Los Angeles.

STATUS OF HEALTH

T-1

From May, 1938 to May, 1943, subject was undergoing treatment for a venereal disease.

CONNECTIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY (U)

T-7 (U)

In February, 1943, informant made available a copy of a letter addressed by subject, as HARRY HAY, to the Chairman of the membership committee of the Los Angeles County Communist Party. (LACCP) The letter is quoted in part as follows:
T-20

In September, 1950, informant, a former member of the CP in the Los Angeles area, furnished a signed statement in which informant characterized subject as a member of the CP in approximately 1947 and as one who conducted a number of classes in Marxism with the objective of recruiting into the CP those people who were present at these classes. Subject was a very firm believer in the policies and objectives of the CP at that time.

T-21, of unknown reliability, former member of CP in Los Angeles area

In 1947, subject was conducting classes on Marxism, which classes were held in private homes and were attended by members of the 13th CD Club and 54th AD Club of the CP, Los Angeles.

T-22

(U)

As of May, 1947, subject was a member of the Edendale Club, LACCP, and had been a CP member for approximately eight years to that time.

T-23

(U)

In approximately 1947 and 1948, subject was being considered for membership on the Educational Committee of the LACCP. Subject had indicated that he was interested in same.

T-24

As of early 1950, subject was a member of the LACCP.

T-25

(U)

Informant learned in July, 1947 that a joint meeting of the Elysian Heights Club and of the Edendale Club, both of the LACCP, was scheduled to be held at the home of subject, 2328 Cove Avenue, Los Angeles on July 10, 1947.
Office Memorandum

TO: Director, FBI (100-211619)

FROM: SAC, Los Angeles (100-18762)

SUBJECT: HARRY HAY, was.

SECURITY MATTER - C

00: - LA

DATE: 4/13/55

Re San Diego letter to the Bureau, 1/26/55, copy to Los Angeles.

Relet reflects that on 4/20/54, STEPHEN WERE, Inglewood, California, testified at the HCUA hearings held at San Diego, California, from 4/19/54 to 4/22/54. He stated that he had been a member of the CP from October, 1943, to the latter part of 1947. He further testified that during this time he was a member of the Hawthorne CP and that on one occasion HARRY HAYS, a schoolteacher, conducted a class on basic Marxism or Leninism at one of the club meetings.

HARRY HAY is on the Security Index of the Los Angeles Office and this information will be incorporated in the next report submitted on HAY.

HAY's Security Index card has been reviewed and it is current and accurate.

FLB/ms
(3)
REGISTERED
TO:            DIRECTOR, FBI (100-211619)
FROM:          SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-18762)
SUBJECT: HARRY HAY, was.
              SM - C
              OO: Los Angeles.

Rebuttal 1/18/52 captioned "CP, U.S.A., District 13, Los Angeles Division; IS - C".

HARRY HAY testified before the HCUA in Los Angeles, California, on 7/2/55, in public session. His testimony appears in the HCUA publication "Investigation of Communist Activities in the Los Angeles, California area", pages 1872-1875, and is maintained in Los Angeles 62-1664-1824.

HAY refused to answer any questions concerning membership or activities in the Communist Party or Communist Front Groups, basing his refusal on the First and Fifth Amendments.

By Los Angeles letter to the Bureau of 6/16/55, it was recommended that HAY be removed from the SI in view of the lack of information to indicate that he had been active in the Communist Party or Front Groups since 1950, except HASP membership in 1954, and the Bureau concurred with this recommendation. This case has been re-evaluated in the light of current SI criteria, and it is recommended that HAY continue to be kept off of the SI since there is no evidence of activity on his part since 1950, except for HASP membership in 1954.

No request for interview is being submitted at this time, inasmuch as it is believed that an attempt to interview HAY would be unavailing in view of his refusal to testify before the HCUA. No further investigation is being conducted at the present time and this case is being placed in a closed status.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

RECORDED 100-211619-27
17 MAR 5 1956
Informants who have furnished reliable information in the past advised that HARRY HAY joined the Communist Party (CP) in Los Angeles, California, in the spring of 1934, but subsequently dropped out. He rejoined the CP in Los Angeles in 1938 and was a member thereof in early 1950. HARRY HAY has also been active in, or in connection with, such organizations or publications as the "Daily People's World," 1942; the New Theater League, 1949; and the Independent Progressive Party, 1948. He was a member of the Hollywood Arts, Sciences and Professions Council in 1954.

HAY declined to furnish any information regarding himself before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in Los Angeles on July 2, 1955. He invoked the First and Fifth Amendments of the Constitution for all questions concerning his former or present CP membership.
SAC; Los Angeles (100-18762)  
March 16, 1956

Director, FBI (100-211619)

HARRY HAY  
SECURITY MATTER - C


In view of Hay's refusal to answer questions concerning Communist membership on the basis of the Fifth Amendment before the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUCA) at Los Angeles July 2, 1955, plus his extensive subversive background, the Bureau feels that he should be included in the Security Index. Submit Form FD-122.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERIN IS UNCLASSIFIED.

DATE: 9-17-90  BY: S/L52-9

WBA: mmf

(4)  \( \frac{24}{31} \)  63 MAR 20 1956

Mr. Anderson
MARITAL STATUS

Records of Superior Court, Los Angeles County, California:

STATEMENT on June 13, 1961, checked Divorce Record D 425 693 and obtained the following information:

MRS. ANITA HAY, as plaintiff, filed divorce action against HARRY HAY December 4, 1951, alleging extreme cruelty. They had two adopted children, [age] years, and [age] years. Final judgment of divorce was granted February 25, 1953, and custody of the children was awarded to ANITA HAY, plaintiff.
NEW THEATRE LEAGUE

The Special Committee on Un-American Activities, report of March 29, 1944, pages 120, 171, and 177 cited the New Theatre League as a Communist front.

DPW, issue of November, 1949, page 5

An article entitled "Classes Moved to Factories, Los Angeles Labor School Expands Spring Program" described HARRY HAY as a former executive director of the New Theatre League in New York.

PEOPLE'S EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION (PEA) aka PEOPLE'S EDUCATIONAL CENTER (PEC)

The PEA has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

T-28

Informant furnished information in April, 1948 which indicated that as of approximately June, 1944 subject was enrolled at the PEC, Los Angeles for a class in elements of dialectical and historical materialism.

T-30

Subject was an instructor at the PEC during the spring term which started on April 14, 1947.

PEOPLE'S SONGS

People's Songs was cited as a Communist front by the California Committee on Un-American Activities, report of 1948, page 392.

DPW, issue of March 26, 1947

In an article entitled, "Dekker to Appear at Hootenanny", it was stated that HARRY HAY of People's Songs would be present at a "pre-election hootenanny" sponsored by
During the latter part of 1946, subject was the instructor of a series of Marxism classes conducted for the Hawthorne Club of the LACCP.

One such class was held at 13027 Yukon Avenue, Hawthorne, California on August 19, 1946. Subject classified the class struggle into four groups: (1) share cropper, (2) factory worker, (3) petty bourgeoisie, (4) farmers. He stated that the factory workers are the most capable of the mentioned groups to head a revolution because they are organized and have nothing to lose. They are best led by the "Vanguard Party", otherwise known as the CP. Even with Communist leadership, however, unions are politically limited because they vote as individuals. As long as the unions and the petty bourgeoisie think as individuals, they are limited. The factory workers make up only a small percentage of the population in the United States. However, that is no set back because in Russia at the time of the Revolution there were only three million Communists. Subject continued that if, for example, the National Maritime Union decided to vote as a block and not as individual people the Revolution would be under way and a Soviet proletariat group would be an actuality. If this group then were joined in their block voting by, for example, the United Auto Workers - CIO, the comparison would be as to the Revolution of Moscow and Petrograd. Subject further stated in the course of this class that the Communist assignment of today is as it has always been to join unions and other groups and to instruct as to the tactics to use to successfully overthrow the capitalist state. Subject enumerated four qualifications of a Communist, namely, (1) Discipline, (2) Sacrifice, (3) Militancy and (4) Revolutionary.

Another of the above-mentioned classes in Marxism was held at 13015 Shoup Avenue, Hawthorne, on September 4, 1946. Subject spoke on Imperialism, Monopoly, and Capitalism. Among other things subject described such corporations as the General Electric Company, the Standard Oil Company, Standard Brands, et al as enemies of the workers and as having uncompromising fascist attitudes.