

COUNTERATTACK

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

FACTS TO COMBAT COMMUNISM

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Dear Subscriber:

COMMUNIST PARTY PLANNED RIOT AT TRIAL OF ITS TOP LEADERS, which began in Federal court this week. CP intended to bring thousands of its members & supporters to the Federal courthouse, where they would pick a fight with the small number of police who were expected to be there.

This riot would be played up throughout world as an assault by Wall Street's police against the American "people", especially the "workers". Thus America would get another black eye in world opinion.

But the plot was balked when NY Police Dept announced it would post 400 of its members near and in U S Courthouse. In other words, there would be enough police on hand to PREVENT trouble. If anybody started anything, he would be yanked away at once.

This police announcement scared many Communists away, as it was intended to do. But what reward did the police get for preventing the riot? One leading newspaper, which often leans backward to be "fair" to Red Fascists, actually rebuked the Police Dept for announcing it was going to have so many policemen on hand. Next day the Communist lawyers in the trial read this editorial in court. When a powerful American newspaper just doesn't know the score, can you wonder that the Communist Fifth Column is strong?

CONNECTION BETWEEN SCREENWRITER DALTON TRUMBO AND STATE DEPARTMENT might well have been explored by Senate Foreign Relations Committee when it held its hearing last week on appointment of Dean Acheson.

Former Sec'y of State Edward R Stettinius, Jr, was the only witness besides Acheson himself, and he praised Acheson highly. Stettinius ought to have been asked about the conference in San Francisco in 1945 that organized the United Nations. Alger Hiss was Sec'y General of conference.

Communist Party Member Dalton Trumbo should have been a witness too. Trumbo has been one of highest-paid screenwriters in Hollywood. He's now appealing a jail sentence for contempt of Congress as result of his refusal to tell House Un-American Activities Committee whether he was a member of CP.

Communist Trumbo was at San Francisco conference. How come? He explained at a meeting of Screen Writers Guild in Hollywood Dec 15, 1947. It was an angry moment and he told a bit of the truth. The major movie producers had yielded to public indignation by announcing they wouldn't employ anybody who had refused to answer the House committee's questions.

The furious Trumbo cut loose. He denounced several movie executives, including Walter Wanger. He said he had written every speech Wanger had ever made...that Wanger didn't have sense enough to prepare his own speeches. He said Wanger had taken him to the U N conference at San Francisco in 1945. That was in wartime, and airplane space was in great demand. Trumbo said he had flown to San Francisco with an A 1 Govt priority and Wanger had installed him in a hotel suite.

Communist Trumbo said he helped to write Sec'y Stettinius' speech at opening of U N conference. Molotov was there. No Fifth Columnist for America was smuggled into Soviet delegation to write Molotov's speeches. But Communist Molotov's comrade, Communist Trumbo, was smuggled into American delegation to help the innocent Stettinius say just the right things.

Trumbo and Alger Hiss should have been questioned by the Senate committee. Exactly how was Trumbo brought into San Francisco conference? What other Communists were in U S delegation? Who brought them there? What did they do there?

Will Communists sometimes help Acheson to write his speeches? Who knows? Acheson's former chief, Stettinius, had Communists around him in State Dept and in American delegation at San Francisco without knowing it. Now it's up to Acheson to do better.

THE DEAN OF APPEASEMENT SAYS, "WHO, ME?" In 1944 the State Dept was divided into two camps, with Assistant Sec'y of State Adolf A Berle, Jr, opposed by Assistant Sec'y Dean Acheson (and Alger & Donald Hiss) on the question: "What do we do when we meet the Russians?" Specifically this meant: "Who'll control Germany? What'll happen in Berlin?" Etc, etc.

Every alert Washington correspondent knew this, even if he didn't write about it. Berle urged a firm policy with Stalin at once, while we had our armies in Europe to speak for us. It was an open secret that Acheson wanted a soft policy. In fact until 1946 he was known as "the Dean of Appeasement". Jonathan Stout, Washington correspondent of the liberal-labor weekly, the New Leader, often made frank reports on this situation. That was before Counterattack was founded...otherwise we'd have published the facts about Acheson at the time.

Yet now Acheson has blandly denied everything to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. An appeaser? Why, he never even heard the word till lately. A dispute with Berle? That's all news to Acheson.

Berle has never talked publicly about this situation. When the appeasers won, Berle lost his assistant secretaryship and became ambassador to Brazil. He took his defeat in silence, just as Undersec'y Joseph C Grew did later when he was replaced by Acheson. Last August Berle was asked by the House Un-American Activities Committee to tell what he knew of Whittaker Chambers' story about Alger & Donald Hiss and others. Berle talked in a CLOSED session of the committee. He was frank about the State Dept dispute, because Chambers' charges were a serious matter.

Acheson quibbled in his testimony before the Senate committee last week. He picked on the fact that Berle had mentioned Alger Hiss, instead of Donald, as Acheson's executive assistant. This was a trivial slip of the tongue. Chambers had accused BOTH the Hiss brothers of being leaders of Communist cells...and both brothers had risen to power in State Dept under Acheson's protective wing. Alger Hiss held higher posts in State Dept than his brother Donald, who afterwards became Acheson's law partner...till this week.

Now the former "Dean of Appeasement" is our Sec'y of State. We must hope his appeasement tendencies are definitely ended. But we'll be better able to face the future if we don't kid ourselves about the past.

BURT LANCASTER, MOVIE STAR, SPOKE AT A COMMUNIST FRONT MEETING last week. Big front, Natl Council of Arts, Sciences & Professions, held a mass meeting to urge abolition of House Un-American Activities Committee. Among several Communists & fellow-travelers who spoke were Howard Fast,

novelist, now appealing a jail sentence for contempt of Congress...Lester Cole, screenwriter indicted for the same offense...Millard Lampell, screen & radio writer...and Rep Vito Marcantonio.

WHAT TO DO: You and your organizations should AT ONCE tell movie theaters in your town, and radio stations & networks, that you object to appearances of Burt Lancaster or any other star at Communist front meetings. Make your position known and FELT at once, for its quick effect on Hollywood.

STRANGE BEHAVIOR OF A FEDERAL JUDGE IN DEALING WITH COMMUNISTS is illustrated by the following facts. In our Jan 7 issue we told you something about Judge Leon R Yankwich of Southern District of Calif, who has lectured at a Communist school and, according to a Communist newspaper, entertained the educational director of the school in his home. We cited a number of other significant facts about Judge Yankwich and the Communists.

In awarding \$71,500 back pay to Lester Cole, \$1350 a week screenwriter, Judge Yankwich made some astonishing statements which deserve attention of Congress. But he had also made some astonishing statements much earlier.

Lester Cole is one of 10 indicted Hollywood "unfriendly witnesses" who're suing movie companies for barring them from employment after they defied House Un-American Activities Committee. Four of these 10 were on faculty of the same Communist school where Yankwich himself lectured. Cole brought a separate suit against Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for breach of contract.

The following incident took place in an early stage of Cole's suit against M-G-M last March. Judge Yankwich asked an M-G-M lawyer whether he knew of any law requiring a witness to answer "Yes" or "No" to a question. The lawyer didn't. Whereupon Judge Yankwich said: "Then your man" (meaning Cole) "did not refuse to answer. He merely said he wanted to answer the question in his own way. As I view the law, he did not refuse to answer."

Now you can decide for yourself. Here's a verbatim extract from Lester Cole's testimony before House committee. The chairman and the chief investigator were trying to get Cole to say whether he was a member of Screen Writers Guild. He dodged...he orated...and at last the following exchange took place (we're quoting the official record word for word):

THE CHAIRMAN. Then you decline to answer the question?

MR COLE. No; I do not decline to answer the question. On the contrary, I would very much like to answer it; just give me a chance.

THE CHAIRMAN. Supposing we gave you a chance to make an explanation, how long would it take you to make that explanation?

MR COLE. Oh, I would say anywhere from a minute to 20, I don't know.

THE CHAIRMAN. Twenty?

MR COLE. Sure, I don't know.

THE CHAIRMAN. And would it all have to do with the question?

MR COLE. It certainly would.

THE CHAIRMAN. Then would you finally answer it "Yes" or "No"?

MR COLE. Well, I really don't think that is the question before us now, is it?

THE CHAIRMAN. Then go to the next question.

MR STRIPLING. Mr Cole, are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

MR COLE. I would like to answer that question as well; I would be very happy to. I believe the reason the question is being asked is that

because at the present time there is an election in the Screen Writers Guild in Hollywood that for 15 years Mr McGuinness and others —

THE CHAIRMAN. I didn't even know there was an election out there. Go ahead and answer the question. Are you a member of the Communist Party?

MR COLE. If you don't know there is an election there you didn't hear Mr Lavery's testimony yesterday.

THE CHAIRMAN. There were some parts I didn't hear.

MR COLE. I am sorry, but I would like to put it into the record that there is an election there.

THE CHAIRMAN. All right, there is an election there. Now, answer the question, Are you a member of the Communist Party?

MR COLE. Can I answer that in my own way, please? May I, please? Can I have that right? Mr McGuinness was allowed to answer in his own way.

THE CHAIRMAN. You are an American, aren't you?

MR COLE. Yes; I certainly am, and it states so in my statement.

THE CHAIRMAN. Then you ought to be very proud to answer the question.

MR COLE. I am very proud to answer the question, and I will at times when I feel it is proper.

THE CHAIRMAN. It would be very simple to answer.

MR COLE. It is very simple to answer the question.

THE CHAIRMAN. You bet.

MR COLE (continuing). And at times when I feel it is proper I will, but I wish to stand on my rights of association —

MR CHAIRMAN. We will determine whether it is proper.

MR COLE. No, sir. I feel I must determine it as well.

THE CHAIRMAN. We will determine whether it is proper. You are excused.

Now ask yourself: Did Lester Cole refuse to answer? (And incidentally, would Judge Yankwich have been as patient with an evasive witness and as polite as the committee chairman was?)

Judge Yankwich insults the intelligence when he asserts Cole didn't refuse to answer. Extraordinary conduct of this judge should be investigated by Congress. If you haven't already done so, write or wire your congressman, your senators, and the chairmen of the House Judiciary Committee (House Office Bldg, Washington, DC) and of the Senate Judiciary Committee (Senate Office Bldg), asking for a full inquiry into Judge Leon R Yankwich.

COMMUNIST PARTY URGES RANK-AND-FILE SUPER-MILITANCY IN LABOR.

The CP has suffered huge losses in labor and is even rapidly losing strength in its chief stronghold, United Electrical Workers, CIO. Last week Communist Natl Committee announced its present line. Communists in unions must stimulate rank-and-file revolts against the leadership on wage question. They must urge all unions to unite for wage boosts. "More for the workers, nothing for the 'cold war'!" That's one of the CP's new slogans. Leaders must be accused of sacrificing workers' interests to Marshall Plan. Thus CP hopes to hurt Marshall Plan and at the same time save its power in labor.

Yours faithfully,

January 21, 1949

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