

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee on Privileges and Elections as Authorized and Appointed Under
Senate Resolution No. 15.

To the Honorable President of the Senate and the
Members of the Senate of the State of Oklahoma:

AUTHORIZATION AND EXPENSE

We, your committee, specially appointed and authorized by authority of Senate Resolution No. 15, have proceeded under the directions and authority given us by said resolution of the Honorable Senate, to investigate the activities of the Communist Party in the State of Oklahoma, together with certain unamerican and subversive groups and their activities within the confines of our State.

Your committee further reporting advises that some fifteen meetings of said committee were held in regard to this investigation, and only those witnesses which were deemed necessary were subpoenaed for testimony; said testimony was taken by a competent reporter and is in the files of this committee, but to save expense it has not been transcribed.

Your committee would suggest that this testimony be filed in the permanent files of the Senate, and further, recommend that the same be not transcribed.

The total expenditures made by this committee from Senate funds as authorized by said resolution amounts to \$272.00 with some small outstanding claims.

Your committee wishes to advise and call to the attention of the Senate that they were naturally limited in the scope of their investigation by the fact that they were engaged in other legislative activities and by the further fact that special or high priced investigators were not retained for the purpose of working up or presenting evidence to the committee. In this respect, we wish to acknowledge the courteous and efficient attention rendered to this committee by our able Sergeant at Arms, Charles B. Finch, and his assistants, as all orders and wishes of the committee were efficiently and promptly handled.

PURPOSE

We, your committee, wish to report and call to the attention of the Senate of

the National and International situation and the fact that it is growing more serious day by day. It is your committee's belief that the American way of life, and the democratic action of free people throughout the world, and the cause of Christianity; and those principles involved in all three are being fought for upon the battle fields of the world today. Isolationists, as we might like to be either on the theory of self-preservation or based upon the sincere belief of the horror and futility of war, our America will surely be called upon to choose by definite action, either tomorrow or in the near future to come, as to whether or not we should maintain those principles which we believe and love, by forceful action, or should they be surrendered by a weak and unprincipled people. America never has been and never will be weak and unprincipled. Therefore, in accordance with the democratic theory of our Government a majority of our people by the election of public officials, have through them, decided our policy on National and International affairs.

Your committee in its consideration of unamerican and subversive activities have assumed the premise that in such a time as the present crisis, that activities which impede and attempt to destroy the efficiency and the ability of the operation of those in control of our governmental policies regarding this grave situation, should be, and are classified as strictly unamerican and subversive in nature.

We, therefore, wish to call to the attention of the Senate that it is a logical result that unamerican and subversive activities would be of a subtle, hidden, and covered kind. It is therefore only natural that only the theoretical crack-pot fool would advocate openly and admittedly action which would definitely be unamerican and subversive. For example, the conscientious objector, who, through his belief has been unable to conform to the principles required, if we are to have an adequate defense for this nation of ours, he is willing for the finger of public criticism to be pointed at him for his failure in doing his part.

Then there is a classification of theoretical crack-pots who have the peculiarity of certain beliefs fitted to their own minds and hearts as to what is right and what is wrong with our government and its activities, from these people we should have no fear as they themselves will force their own regulation.

The danger of unamerican and subversive activities lie in the strength of shrewdly organized and well financed movements of organizations cloaking themselves and hiding behind assumed names and fictional entities, contending from and through the front doors of said organizations to be American in nature and purpose, while through the back doors foreign influences are sent in for the purpose of causing throughout this nation of ours a lack of unity in spirit, cross purposes from a definite active defense program, a feeling of dissatisfaction among our people, unrest among the laborers and above all things, a dissatisfaction with the christian way of life as we know it and have lived it.

Your committee wishes to call to the attention of the Senate that the American way of life contemplates a growing change at all times for the betterment of all man kind living under its rule, but that our theory of change has certain prescribed limitations, which limitations are further restricted by the existence of the present national and international crisis.

True Americans realize the restrictions necessary today and those who step beyond the bounds of these required restrictions naturally become tools of those foreign interests which use their activity as an active and militant force of their Fifth Column which they have infiltrated and implanted throughout the world.

Unfortunately organizations of this type and kind have spread throughout this nation and have become active in the State of Oklahoma. We, as citizens of this State should watch well their activities, and by calling them to their attention, those who are truly Americans, will, we are sure adjust themselves properly, those who are not and who ~~are~~ will not adjust should be watched, marked and by proper and protective laws, ruled and regulated.

FINDINGS

Your committee finds that there is in existence, actively engaged in the field of propaganda and agitation in the State of Oklahoma, one Communist Party. We further find that said party, although holding itself out to be an American Political Party, is in fact and substance, a political propaganda agency of the Soviet Union of Russia.

Testimony was taken of Robert Wood, Secretary of said party in the State of Okla-

homa and Eli Jaffee, who is in fact a writer of the political propaganda put out by the local State organization. In accordance with the literature, tradition and teachings of said party, these witnesses would admit, under oath, that they were not telling and would not tell the truth, however, testimony and evidence disclosed to the satisfaction of your committee that said Communist Party in the State of Oklahoma was well financed by monies received from National Organizations' with their headquarters in New York City.

Further, that said Communist Party had some thirty odd local party organizations scattered throughout the State of Oklahoma, and had an admitted membership in the State of Oklahoma, of one thousand members. Under the circumstances, and in view of the light of the testimony, it is the judgment of your committee, that said organization has no doubt had a much larger membership in the State of Oklahoma, and that their activities have extended into practically every section of this State.

Your committee believes and finds after consideration and study of the activities of this party, that although they contend to advance and advocate a philosophy of government based on a democratic principle of which only by democratic movements changes could be made, that said philosophy is merely a curtain behind which their organizers hide for the reason that the organizers and directors of said party and the fundamental teachings of said party is the advocating of the overthrow of this and all other governments throughout the world by force and for the formation out of the ruins of the same of a Soviet Union of the World.

A thorough investigation was made of the affairs and the activities of the Oklahoma Federation for Constitutional Rights. This organization was conceived and brought into existence by some of the so called "liberal minded citizens" in the State of Oklahoma, however, definite proof was presented to the effect that the creation of said organization was brought about by the outside influence of these so called liberal organizations scattered throughout the country. The effect and activities of this organization is nothing but a fellow traveler spirit and has the tendency to merely muddy the water at a time when such activities are doing nothing but to impede the defense of this nation of ours, and to create dissatisfaction among our people.

Unamerican activities were investigated in regard to Oklahoma University and other institutions of learning in the State. Your committee has come to the conclusion that there is not in existence any organization of students in any State Institution actively engaged in any subversive movement. Definite proof has been found where there has been connected with the State University in the past active members of the Communist Party and unamerican liberal minded crackpots who have attempted to influence student thought and students activities.

Your committee was unable to obtain much information in regard to the Peace Mobilization organization of which one, John B. Thompson of Norman, Oklahoma is the national president. Your committee is of the opinion that the influence and teachings of said John B. Thompson, in view of his activities in connection with the students of the University of Oklahoma, constitute a bad and unamerican influence upon the students of said Institution. The Dies Committee has reported that the Peace Mobilization group is definitely associated with and is an unamerican and subversive organization. And that the said Reverend John B. Thompson, who poses on one hand to be a loyal American citizen and yet on the other is issuing public statements to the effect that democracy is going to pot, and who admits that he is a good citizen, yet by his own testimony has never been able to find time to vote but once in his life, that his action and spirit is in the judgment of this committee, strictly unamerican and subversive in nature.

Your committee has further definite evidence and believes in the existence of a large amount of communistic influence in some of the laboring organization located in the State. This statement is not in regard to the labor organizations themselves nor the labor movements, but in regard to the activities of some of their members.

In regard to State Departments and State Institutions we have discussed this matter with the Chief Executive, Honorable Leon C. Phillips, and with the Board of Affairs and the State Highway Commission and we are unable to find any traces of subversive activities coming under these departments and have been assured of their hearty cooperation in immediately taking care of any such situations.

We wish to commend most highly the American Legion of the State of Oklahoma and their State Commander, Randall S. Cobb and their Adjutant, ~~Will~~ Phillips for their hearty cooperation, and cite as an example to the people of this State, that you don't find any Unamerican and Subversive activities among the organization of the men who fought for the preservation of this Nation of ours.

We wish to advise that we have been afforded the counsel, advice and information of the Honorable Lewis Morris and his most able Assistant, John Eberle, of Oklahoma County and wish to state that they have done a great service to the people of this nation and of this State in regard to their vigorous and patriotic prosecutions of the Communist Group in the State of Oklahoma under the Criminal Syndicalism Law of this State, and wish to express our appreciation for the fine cooperation and able assistance, and the information given to us by Captain George Hollingsworth of the City Police Force of Oklahoma City, commending him most highly for his efficient work in the field of keeping tabs and checking subversive and unamerican activities in the State of Oklahoma.

We find that the policy of the National Government in their attitude during the past few years by their failure to deport from this nation of ours these aliens not entitled to be here and in their failure to prosecute throughout this nation these activities of these unamerican organization's and subversive groups and their policy of permitting communist's and other subversive people to work upon the payroll of this Government, has resulted in a very critical internal situation.

Your committee finds that the Dies Investigating Committee of our National Congress has done a patriotic service which will prove invaluable during the next few years in regard to the stamping out of unamerican activities, by the information which they have obtained through their investigations which will no doubt be invaluable as our crisis becomes more serious, when talk will turn into action and when action will turn into Sabotage, which then will cause the destruction of the property and lives of our people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Your committee recommends to the Senate the following:

I.

That all pending legislation be passed, restricting and abolishing by law the activities of the Communist Party and the existence of said party in the State of Oklahoma. We further recommend that names of the organizers and agitators of said party be furnished to the proper agency of the U. S. Government and that if and when an emergency arises, said organizers and agitators should be placed in Detention Camps, as they are truly a part of the Fifth Column within this Nation.

II.

Your committee further recommends that the Senate go on record as being of the opinion that the organization known as the Oklahoma Federation for Constitutional Rights is an unamerican and subversive group and was influenced and brought into existence by similar fellow traveler organizations scattered throughout this nation.

III.

Your committee recommends that the student body at the University of Oklahoma and the other State Institutions of higher learning in the State of Oklahoma be given a clear and completely favorable report, however, there is still some influence which we think should be removed from the University of Oklahoma and your committee recommends to the Senate that they recommend by the adoption of this report to the Board of Regents that they discharge from the Faculty, one Maurice Halperin, and that they disassociate any connection at said University with the school of one Dean Nick Comfort, and that the Board of Regents, instruct, advise and inform all of their professors to each and believe in the principles of this great government of ours which gives this Institution in fact its very existence.

IV.

Your committee recommends that the Senate go on record by the adoption of this report, opposing the beliefs and policies of the Peace Mobilization organization of which one John B. Thompson of Norman, is the National President, as the same is a fellow traveler organization.

V.

Your committee further recommends that the Senate by the adoption of this report,

suggests, that the labor organizations throughout the State be asked to check well their membership and do everything that they can to clear from said memberships the influence and effects of any communist or any other unamerican people connected with their organizations.

VI.

Your committee recommends that the Senate by adoption, give a vote of confidence and appreciation to the American Legion of this State for their unwavering patriotism, and to the faithful action of their State Commander, Randall S. Cobb and their able Adjutant, Milt Phillips.

VII.

We your committee recommends that the Senate by the adoption of this report extend a vote of appreciation to the able work of the Honorable Lewis H. Morris and his most able assistant, John Eberle of Oklahoma City, for their patriotic work in the prosecution of the Communist's in Oklahoma, and further, a vote of appreciation to Captain George Hollingsworth of the City Police Force for his efficient work along this line.

VIII.

Your committee further recommends that the Department of Justice be advised that it is the consensus of the Senate of this State that more vigorous action should be taken in checking and prosecuting, by Federal action, any connections with our Federal Government of Communist or any other subversive person, and that unamerican activities be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

IX.

Your committee further recommends that the Senate go on record approving the valiant and courageous action of Congressman Dies and the Dies Investigating Committee in our National Congress, and that a copy of this report be sent to said committee expressing our confidence in their work and thanking them for their invaluable service to the people of this State and Nation.

X.

That the Senate go on record by the adoption of this report to the effect that

the investigation made by this committee apparently did not elect a Congressman from the Seventh District as some members of the Senate and others thought that it might.

XI.

We your committee wish to advise that we have attempted to make this report as brief as possible and yet full enough to cover in substance our actions. If there is any point of information desired by the Senate we would be glad to supply the same. We, therefore, request that by the adoption of this report that our committee be discharged from any further duties or activities by and under the authority of Senate Resolution No. 15.

In conclusion it is your committee's sincerest hope that we have helped to call to the attention of the citizenship of the State of Oklahoma that the time may come in the near future when this nation may be offered only "blood, sweat and tears," and therefore let us all help to hoist high the stars and stripes/to it once again, renew our pledge of loyalty, for surely when our young men are asked to bleed and die, our citizenship as a whole should direct their activities to those strictly in keeping with the spirit of true Americanism.

For the consecration of mankind to the cause of Christianity Jesus Christ the Savior allowed his blood to bathe the cross which he carried under pain and suffering to the highest point of Calvary; when the young men of America unselfishly, and patriotically, stand ready to bathe a million crosses in their blood, to say the least our citizen ship can relieve them from the pain and burden of carrying the cross to their Calvary.

If we are to dedicate the lives of these young men to our belief in freedom and our belief in God, then as it will be their duty to fight and destroy new and horrible instrumentalities of war, the tank, airplane, and mechanized equipment, then we as an awakened citizenship must arise to the occasion and cope with the Fifth Column in our midst. Its activities are varied, its effects are devastating. Behind the guise of free speech we cannot permit it to poison the blood stream of the very life of this nation. What this nation needs is to have every possible light of investigation thrown upon its activities, and when the same are disclosed to stamp them out of existence as

you would the dangerous reptile which has crawled, unseen into our midst.

Respectfully submitted,

JOE B. THOMPSON,

PAUL STEWART,

JULIUS W. COX.

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