

# March, Cagney Among 17 Called Communists; FBI Man Says U. S. Schools Sap Patriotism <sup>post</sup> <sup>8/14/50</sup>

The teaching of "doctrines wholly un-American" in the Nation's schools and colleges is one of the greatest problems facing the FBI in its national defense work, Lee R. Pennington, administrative assistant to J. Edgar Hoover, said yesterday.

American youth, he told members of the Washington Rotary Club at a luncheon meeting in the Willard Hotel, are falling prey to "preachers of ideologies foreign to our way of thinking."

"Doctrines wholly un-American have gotten into our educational institutions," he continued, "and students are listening to influences which are trying to make us a Nation divided against itself."

He said the FBI is doing all within its power to uncover instances of classroom discussion of un-American topics, but that "help of all law-abiding citizens is needed to carry on our fight."

"We know there are instructors in schools throughout the country teaching subversive subjects, but it is a mystery to the FBI why such practices are permitted to exist when they could be stopped easily before they get a foothold," Pennington declared.

He suggested that parents talk to their children, learn what is going on in their community schools, and report any cases of subversive activities direct-

Los Angeles, Aug. 14 (AP).—More than a dozen prominent Hollywood actors, actresses and film writers were named in grand jury testimony, made public tonight, as members of the Communist Party and heavy contributors to its support.

The district attorney's office made public a transcript of testimony given last week by John L. Leech, a former Los Angeles County Communist Party organizer, before a county grand jury investigating Communist activities. His testimony identified these as members of the party:

Lionel Stander, actor; Jean Muir, actress; Frank Tuttle, film technician; Tania Tuttle, his wife; Frank Davis, producer; Clifford Odets, writer and scenarist; Sam Ornitz, writer; Franchot Tone, actor; Frederic March, actor; Gregory La Cava, director; Lester Cole, scenarist; James Cagney, actor; Humphrey Bogart, actor; Frank Scully, writer; Francis Lederer, actor; Herbert Biberman, director, and Buddy Schulberg, son of B. P. Schulberg, producer.

Leech was the principal witness before the grand jury. It indicted five men on charges of murder in connection with a water front slaying five years ago which he attributed to differences over Communistic in-



Jean Muir Franchot Tone

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## Assails Un-American Teaching



Post Staff Photo

**SAYS PATRIOTISM IS BEING UNDERMINED**—A. P. Reeves (left), vice president of the Washington Rotary Club, talks with Lee R. Pennington (right), FBI official, who told the Rotarians yesterday that teaching of doctrines wholly un-American in the Nation's schools and colleges was undermining the patriotism of American youth

## U. S. Schools Undermining Patriotism, FBI Man Charges

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ly to the FBI.

He charged that so-called Fifth Columnists are using a "softening process"—undermining American youth for the "final kill."

"The FBI," said Pennington, "has recently conducted a series of conferences with State and municipal

authorities to map a plan of attack on these evil forces. We have found that these un-American teachings have not alone crept into our schools but into our pulpits and, in many instances, the daily press.

He warned his listeners to avoid hysteria, combat the problem calmly and offer concerted cooperation with United States authorities.

and Jean Muir denied any connection with Communism. "I am not a Communist and have never been one. I am violently opposed to Communism and everything it stands for," said Lederer.

Beauvais Fox, representing the actress, said, "she told me to say this is wholly false."

The transcript showed that Leech testified Franchot Tone's contributions ran from \$75 to \$150 monthly.

"I have appeared at meetings at which Mr. Tone was present," Leech testified, "and have talked to him concerning party affairs and know he was on the list of regular contributors to the Communist Party. He was in the master list of 43 persons I have in my possession."

Discussing Cagney, Leech said his

name was involved in a cotton strike in California's San Joaquin Valley in 1934, "and the publicity was so unfavorable that he experienced professional difficulties."

"Shortly thereafter the Communist Party in New York notified the State committee, which in turn notified me in writing, that because of the unfavorable publicity the California organization and particularly the Los Angeles organization must in the future have no contact with Mr. Cagney; that any relation between Mr. Cagney and the Communist Party would be conducted entirely by the central committee of the Communist Party. We were warned and advised that local interference would not be permitted.