

# House of Representatives

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1942

The House met at 12 o'clock noon, and was called to order by the Speaker.

The Chaplain, Rev. James Shera Montgomery, D. D., offered the following prayer:

Consider our frailties, O Lord; we entreat Thee to hear our prayer. Remembering that unfaithfulness will surely be punished and fidelity rewarded, we pray that we may be in a searching mood with a somber thought. With eyes that see, with hearts that feel, and with hands that work, we beseech Thee to possess us with pure minds and holy wills, desiring that the good in us may become better, ever yearning to attain the best. Walking with Thee through these days of Thy passion, unveil to us Thy redeeming grace, making it everlastingly new, yet as old as the heart of God.

O Christ, Thou who art the way, who hast the power to make life a psalm and fill it with a triumphant song, again ride abroad redressing human wrongs and cleansing the temples of our sinning souls. Multitudes of Thy mourning children, sick for home, are toiling in tears in alien lands; as the fires of hate cannot melt the golden chain of Thy mercy nor distance break the bonds of our Saviour's compassion, open Thy hand with the tokens of divine love, bringing surcease of imposed pain. Awaken in us the high privilege of sharing the heartaches of others with that courageous devotion which can endure with dignity and without fear. In our dear Redeemer's name. Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The Journal of the proceedings of Saturday, March 28, 1942, was read and approved.

### PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE HOUSE

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. SNYDER]?

There was no objection.

LT. GEN. JONATHAN M. WAINWRIGHT

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, some weeks ago I took occasion here on the floor to say that when and if the circumstances demanded in this war effort we would find that we had many generals and admirals in our armed forces that would meet the situation in a way that all red-blooded Americans would be proud of them.

I personally know more than 200 of our Army officers, colonels, and generals. I have met them across the table at hearings and in conferences or I visited and saw them in action at their posts of duty in the States, in Alaska, in Panama, in Puerto Rico, and in Hawaii.

I remember distinctly the first time I saw a long, lean, lanky, then colonel, with his Cavalry unit in action. Everything was spick and span. The men were tidy. The equipment and munitions were in first-class shape. Action and precision were manifested in every move.

I later visited this officer on several occasions at his post. Mrs. Snyder and I were guests in his home. He has a charming family. The elements are so mixed in this gentleman that he has the courage of his convictions. He is possessed with much initiative and vision. His friends, as well as the men he commands, admire and respect him. They take pride in carrying out his orders.

Yes; Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright in a worthy successor of Gen. Douglas MacArthur as commander of our forces in the Philippines.

### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

Mr. WOODRUFF of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my colleague the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BRADLEY] may be permitted to extend his own remarks in the RECORD by printing a radio address he delivered on the 29th and also that he may have permission to print in tomorrow's RECORD an address that he will deliver today in his district.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. WOODRUFF]?

There was no objection.

[The matter first referred to appears in the Appendix.]

Mr. WOODRUFF of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I have two other unanimous-consent requests, one that I may be permitted to extend my own remarks in the RECORD and to include an editorial by David Lawrence; and I also ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. HOFFMAN] may be permitted to extend his own remarks in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. WOODRUFF]?

There was no objection.

[The matters referred to appear in the Appendix.]

### PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE HOUSE

Mr. MASON. Mr. Speaker, I make the unusual request for me to speak for 1 minute.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. MASON]?

There was no objection.

### MAURICE PARMELEE AND HIS NUDISM IN MODERN LIFE

Mr. MASON. Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of the House to Maurice

Parmelee, economist for the Board of Economic Warfare, under Vice President WALLACE, at a salary of \$5,600 per year.

I have scanned Parmelee's book, *Nudism in Modern Life*. In this book Parmelee advocates the general practice of nudism in the homes, business establishments, industrial establishments, and offices of the Nation. A critic of the book, however, calls attention to the fact that if nudism becomes generally practiced, we may need restrictions against overcrowding in elevators, streetcars, and similar places. Parmelee warns we can expect the opposition of the churches of the Nation.

The only comment I want to make is: Only crackpots would select crackpots to help plan our war program or our post-war program.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed for 1 minute.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. Cox]?

There was no objection.

### MAURICE PARMELEE

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I have a very affectionate regard for our Vice President. He is one of the cleanest, finest men I have ever known; but I do regret his rather bitter attack upon our colleague from Texas [Mr. DIES].

I hope that the Vice President will not be jockeyed into the position of defending Mr. Parmelee. I hold in my hand two of Mr. Parmelee's books, and if I have ever seen in print and picture anything that is filthy and dirty, it is in these books.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert in the RECORD as a part of my remarks copy of Mr. DIES' letter to the Vice President, and in this connection may I say that I am not taking any part in the controversy and certainly I have nothing of criticism of others whose names are given in the Dies' letter, but I do assert that, insofar as Mr. Parmelee is concerned, the statement of Mr. DIES is amply supported.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. Cox]?

There was no objection.

The letter referred to follows:

MARCH 28, 1942.

The Honorable HENRY A. WALLACE,  
Chairman, Board of Economic Warfare,  
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: By Executive Order No. 8982, of December 17, 1941, the President established the Board of Economic Warfare and named you as its chairman. For that reason, Mr. Vice President, I am addressing you to apprise you of some of the results of my investigation of the situation which exists with respect to the personnel of the Board of Economic Warfare. I note especially that the Board numbers among its functions and



duties the consideration of measures dealing with post-war economic reconstruction.

An initial check which I have made shows that at least 35 high Government officials employed by the Board of Economic Warfare have public records which show affiliation with front organizations of the Communist Party.

Outstanding among these officials of the Board of Economic Warfare is the case of Maurice Parmelee who is employed as principal economist for the Board of Economic Warfare at a salary of \$5,600.

Mr. Parmelee was born in Constantinople, and throughout his life has traveled extensively. Furthermore, Mr. Parmelee has been a prolific author, and consequently his views are matters of public record.

Among Mr. Parmelee's books—all of which are revolutionary in viewpoint—is one entitled "Nudism in Modern Life." This volume was published in 1931 after the author according to his own declaration, had spent several years in nudist camps in Europe.

Nudism in Modern Life is a book of 300 pages with 35 photographs taken in nudist camps, all of which are obscene. That the book is an attack upon the moral structure of our society and upon the church and religion is apparent from even a casual reading. Mr. Parmelee advocates the widespread practice of nudism in this country. He does not offer it in the form of an experiment or an occasional diversion or a fad but quite seriously declares that it should "be practiced whenever feasible in office, workshop, and factory." The author professes to believe that nudism has the greatest advantages for the home and for society generally.

In the nudist society which Parmelee envisages, "convent and monastery, harem and military barrack, clubs and schools exclusively for each sex will disappear, and the sexes will live a more normal and happier life together."

Parmelee foresees some hesitancy on the part of rural folk in adopting nudism because, "The church and its clergy are usually strongly entrenched in the country, and exercise a powerful sway over its inhabitants."

Parmelee ties his philosophy of nudism up with his ideas of economics on which he has written extensively in other volumes. In the present volume he explains the relationship between his philosophy of nudism and his economics, as follows: "While gymnosophists (nudists) are not necessarily socialists or communists, these colonies furnish excellent opportunities for experiments along communistic lines, some of which may be successful. To say the least, these colonies would be democratic in their character. Customary nudity is impossible under the existing undemocratic social, economic, and political organization."

Surely, Mr. Vice President, there is no place in a post-war planning agency for a person who advocates such a crackpot and immoral plan. When I consider that this man is the principal economist of the agency which you head, I, like many others, wonder how it is possible that a person with Mr. Parmelee's background and views can secure such an important post when there are so many competent persons who are able and willing to fill this post, persons whose outlook on life is wholesomely American and not embellished with crackpot ideas of nudism, technocracy, communism, or any other brand of revolution. It cannot be said, Mr. Vice President, that the Government did not have notice of Mr. Parmelee's background for as early as 1934 he was tried in the District of Columbia for bringing obscene matter into the United States. I should like to quote here what Chief Justice Wheat had to say concerning Mr. Parmelee's book: "The illustrations which are asserted to be obscene apparently have no relevancy to the written text at the place in which each of said photographic illustrations is set in the book. The said photographs or

illustrations, upon examination, are obscene and within the condemnation of the statute under the authority of which seizure was made and the libel filed." In stating his conclusions of law, Chief Justice Wheat declared: "The said books contain obscene matter and are therefore properly subject to libel under section 305 of title 111 of the Tariff Act of June 17, 1930, title 19, United States Code, section 1305, and should be destroyed.

Wholly apart from the final disposition of the case of Mr. Parmelee's book in the courts, I am obliged to state that the volume is obviously the work of a warped and unhealthy mind. I find it significant that Mr. Parmelee did not list the title of this book on his application for Government employment. The question which I raise is not one of freedom of speech and press but of qualification for an important Government position.

I call your special attention, Mr. Vice President, to two other volumes from the pen of Mr. Parmelee. One is entitled "Farewell to Poverty" and the other "Bolshevism, Fascism, and the Liberal-Democratic State." These volumes have nothing of the objectivity of the scholar but are, on the contrary, propaganda treatises for communism. Together these volumes fill some 900 pages. Any one of thousands of passages could be cited from these volumes to show the Communist viewpoint of the author, but I must be content to quote only the following: "The high technological development in the United States renders it feasible to introduce a planned social economy much more rapidly than has been the case in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The superficial paraphernalia of capitalism can be dispensed with more quickly than in the Soviet Union."

I may point out that the name of Maurice Parmelee appeared on the membership list of the American League for Peace and Democracy which our committee published 2½ years ago. At that time, Parmelee was employed in the Department of Agriculture. There will hardly be any disagreement at this date over the fact that the American League for Peace and Democracy was one of the fronts of the Communist Party.

Other employees of the Board of Economic Warfare were likewise affiliated with the Communist-controlled American League for Peace and Democracy. I cite the following records:

C. Hartley Grattan, economic analyst of the Board of Economic Warfare, at a salary of \$5,600, wrote an article for Fight magazine which was the official publication of the American League for Peace and Democracy.

T. A. Bisson, principal economic analyst of the Board of Economic Warfare, at a salary of \$5,600, was a sponsor of the American League for Peace and Democracy.

Kendall Foss, principal analyst of the Board of Economic Warfare, at a salary of \$5,600, was a member of the American League for Peace and Democracy.

Sigmund Timberg, principal analyst of the Board of Economic Warfare, at a salary of \$5,600, was a member of the American League for Peace and Democracy.

David Vaughn, head administrative officer of the Board of Economic Warfare, at a salary of \$6,500, was a sponsor of the American League for Peace and Democracy.

Abe M. Dramer, assistant intelligence analyst of the Board of Economic Warfare, at a salary of \$2,600, was a member of the American League for Peace and Democracy.

Eugene Staley, consultant of the Board of Economic Warfare, was a sponsor of the China Aid Council of the American League for Peace and Democracy.

Nathaniel Weyl, senior economic analyst of the Board of Economic Warfare, at a salary of \$4,600, was a member of the national committee of the Communist-controlled

student congress against war, which was in turn one of the forerunners of the American League for Peace and Democracy.

I do not intend to go fully into the records of these employees of the Board of Economic Warfare at this time, Mr. Vice President, but I do wish to point out a few additional affiliations with Communist organizations which the records of our committee reveal.

In addition to his affiliation with the American League for Peace and Democracy which I have already cited, Mr. C. Hartley Grattan was both a contributor and an advisory editor of the magazine Champion. This periodical was an official organ of the Young Communist League and included among its editors such well-known and publicly avowed Communists as Angelo Herndon. Grattan was also a member of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, an organization which was an auxiliary of the Communist Party. Like Mr. Parmelee, Mr. Grattan has been a prolific author. In his book entitled "Preface to Chaos," Mr. Grattan predicts world-wide communism after the second World War. He then cites H. G. Wells as holding a contrary view and asks the following rhetorical question: "As between Wells and Marx, what worth-while man will hesitate in his choice?"

In September 1939, which will be remembered as the month following Soviet Russia's pact with Hitler, the Communist magazine Soviet Russia Today published a manifesto which was described as "On open letter for closer cooperation with the Soviet Union." Some 400 prominent Communists and fellow travelers signed this document. It should be kept in mind that this document appeared at a time when the line of the Communist Party was in sharp conflict with the interests of the United States. Among the 400 signers of the document were T. A. Bisson, whom I have already mentioned as a sponsor of the American League for Peace and Democracy, and George B. Cressey, consultant of the Board of Economic Warfare on a \$25 per diem.

T. A. Bisson has also contributed several articles to the Communist magazine Soviet Russia Today. Bisson was also a speaker at the fourth national convention of the American Student Union, one of the fronts of the Communist Party.

There will be no debate, Mr. Vice President, on the desirability of our having an agency to consider the grave problems of post-war planning and economic reconstruction. On the other hand, I am sure that the American people will be concerned to know whether or not such an agency is to have on its staff a large number of persons—or even one person for that matter—whose records indicate that they reject the American way of life in favor of this or that scheme for revolution.

Recently it became my duty to expose the Communist record of one Malcolm Cowley, who was employed in the Office of Facts and Figures. After my exposure Mr. Cowley resigned his post. I believe that the American people will now welcome numerous resignations, or dismissals, from the staff of the Board of Economic Warfare. I am sure that you will unhesitatingly agree that the interests of national unity would be furthered thereby. At least, there is no place in such an agency for an outstanding advocate of nudism.

Sincerely yours,

MARTIN DIES,  
Member of Congress.

The statement of the Vice President is as follows:

WALLACE'S STATEMENT

Vice President WALLACE's statement, in full, follows:

"I have been informed of an open letter written me by MARTIN DIES regarding certain employees of the Board of Economic Warfare. If Mr. DIES were genuinely interested in help-