

Another Red 'Trojan Horse'

Dies Committee Investigator Relates How Communists Rule Consumer Groups.

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A summary of the report on communist activities in consumer organizations, submitted to the Dies committee by J. B. Matthews, its research director, follows:

By organizing so-called consumer groups and penetrating others already established, the Communist party was following its "Trojan horse" tactics and also extending its influence into fields previously untouched, he said.

Radical Party Switch.

This called for a radical change in policy for the party, because before 1935 consumer protests were not approved of in theory by the party. Arthur Kallet, director of the Consumers Union, said, in fact, that consumer protests were mere efforts to reform the capitalistic system, rather than destroy it.

It was the Seventh World Congress in Moscow which, in 1935, decided to attempt to extend its campaign beyond the proletariat.

"Precisely as the Communist party professes an interest in collective bargaining for the purpose of expanding its influence and control into trade unions," Mr. Matthews's report stated, "and precisely as it professes an interest in peace and democracy for the purpose of bringing members of the middle class under its influence, so the party professes concern over consumers for the purpose of tearing down the institutions of capitalistic society and erecting in their place the institutions of proletarian dictatorship.

League of Women Shoppers.

The first of the Communist party's consumer organizations set up in 1935 was called the League of Women Shoppers. In its beginning, the most active organizer of this group was Susan Jenkins, who admitted at one time, under oath, in the Chancery Court of New Jersey, that she had been an employee of the Daily Worker, official communist daily newspaper. It can hardly be alleged that any employee of the Daily Worker would be other than a communist.

The Communist party assigned one of its active members, Helen Kay, as the first secretary of the League of Women Shoppers. The special committee on un-American activities has in its possession letters, on the official letterhead of the League of Women Shoppers, signed by Helen Kay. The publications of the Communist party reveal that Helen Kay was formerly editor of New Pioneer, official publication of the Communist party's organization for children. One witness who has appeared before the special committee on un-American activities testified that Helen Kay also spent a period of residence in Moscow, where she was a student in the Lenin Institute. Numerous witnesses before the committee have shown that it is a standard tactic for the Communist party to name one of its trusted members as the secretary of a "transmission belt." It is pertinent at this point to call attention to the testimony of witnesses who have made it clear that all members of the

Communist party, without exception, are subject to party discipline and orders in their work within the so-called "transmission belts."

The committee is in possession of testimony from a former member of the Communist party that she was assigned by the party to manage the affairs of the League of Women Shoppers in Hollywood.

According to various issues of the Daily Worker, the League of Women Shoppers has been associated in meetings and demonstrations with such communist "transmission belts" as the American League for Peace and Democracy, the American Friends of the Chinese People and the Progressive Women's Council. It is also a matter of public record that William P. Mangold, long-time treasurer of the American League for Peace and Democracy and later a representative of the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy as well as a registered agent of the Spanish Loyalist cause, appeared at a meeting of the Borden company on behalf of the League of Women Shoppers.

Among the directors and sponsors of the League of Women Shoppers have been such well known Communist party members and fellow travelers as the following: Clarina Michelson, Louise Thompson, Leane Zugsmith, Helen Kay and Tess Slesinger.

Consumers Union.

Three persons held the leadership in the agitation and maneuvering of the Communist party which resulted in the setting up of Consumers Union. These persons were Susan Jenkins, Arthur Kallet and Walter Trumbull.

Reference has already been made to the fact that Miss Jenkins was formerly an employee of the Daily Worker.

In 1925 Walter Trumbull was court-martialed and sentenced to a term of twenty-six years as a communist attempting to bore from within the United States Army. He was released from prison after serving three years of this term. During the last year Trumbull has been an instructor in the Communist party's Workers School in Philadelphia.

Arthur Kallet's political connections are indicated not only by his typically communist comment on consumer co-operatives, which has already been cited, but also by numerous other activities. He was a member of the editorial board of the communist publication, Health and Hygiene. In his book, entitled "Counterfeit," Kallet wrote: "Goods counterfeiting cannot be ended so long as it pays; that is, so long as industry is privately owned and profits are the motivating force behind production; and to suggest any easy remedy would be to offer only one more counterfeit to consumers."

In a footnote to the foregoing statement, Kallet wrote: "The reader may ask the pertinent question as to how completely goods counterfeiting has been eliminated along with private industry in Soviet Russia." According to an interview given to a writer for Scribner's magazine for

November, 1934, Kallet's views were set forth in the following statement: "He (Kallet) will tell any one that he dislikes our economic system, that he feels it is doomed and that he hopes the Russian system works out so well that we shall be compelled to adopt it." In a letter to Mr. Henry L. Maggiolo, Kallet took the customary Communist party position, prevailing in 1933, to the effect that any one who attacked Communism was per se pro-Fascist.

From the inception of the organization down to the present, Kallet has been the director of Consumers Union.

On the board of directors of Consumers Union are the following: Robert A. Brady, one of the signatories to the recently published "open letter" which lauded the Soviet Union and which denounced those

who "bracket the Soviet Union with the Fascist States"; Jerome Davis, Communist fellow traveler, recently defeated as president of the American Federation of Teachers on the issue of Communist party control of that union; A. J. Isserman, who appeared before the special committee on un-American activities as counsel for the International Labor Defense, an organization found by the committee to be one of the Communist party's "united fronts"; Kathleen McInerney, former secretary of the League of Women Shoppers, and Arthur Kallet.

Harry Bridges is among the sponsors of the West Coast section of Consumers Union. Consumers Union has used as the principal medium for advertising in its reports the numerous publications of the Communist party and its other "transmission belt" organizations. For example, Consumers Union ran a large advertisement in the May Day issue of the Daily Worker (1939). Among the other Communist publications which have been used to carry advertisements of Consumers Union are Soviet Russia Today, Fight and New Masses.

I. W. O. Activities.

A staff member of Consumers Union has contributed articles to the official publication of the International Workers Order, a well known "fraternal benefit" organization under the complete control of the Communist party. Furthermore, Consumers Union in its reports has recommended the insurance of the International Workers Order. The general secretary of the I. W. O. is Max Redacht, an avowed charter member of the Communist party. The president of the I. W. O. is William Weiner, who is also national financial secretary of the Communist Party in the United States and who has just been indicted by a Federal jury for fraudulently representing himself as a citizen of the United States in obtaining an American passport.

Among the Communist members of the so-called labor advisory board of Consumers' Union are the following: Louis Weinstock, official of the Painters Union; Michael Quill, head of the Transport Workers Union, and Ben Gold, head of the Fur Workers International Union.

The Film League, an organization set up by the Communist party, has produced under the supervision of Arthur Kallet a film entitled "Getting Your Money's Worth."

When the Communist publication Health and Hygiene was suspended recently, its unexpired subscriptions were filled by Consumers' Union.

Committee for Boycott Against Japanese Aggression.

Early in 1938, according to the Daily Worker, there was set up the

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Committee for Boycott Against Japanese Aggression. The hand of the Communist party in the operation of his group is clear from the names of the following participants:

Ben Gold, prominent Communist party member and president of the International Fur Workers Union.

Robert W. Dunn, director of the Labor Research Association, which was shown by testimony before the committee to be an agency of the Communist party.

Michael Quill, head of the Transport Workers Union and a member of the Communist party, according to several witnesses who have appeared before the committee.

William B. Spofford, acting chairman of the American League for Peace and Democracy.

Jerome Davis, member of the board of directors of Consumers Union.

William Hinckley, former chairman of the American Youth Congress.

Joseph P. Lash, executive secretary of the American Student Union.

Kathleen McInerney, former secretary of the League of Women Shoppers.

Milk Consumers Protective Committee.

The Milk Producers Protective Committee has for its chairman Susan Jenkins, who took an active part in its organization. Meyer Parodneck is vice-chairman of this committee.

According to an affidavit made by Meyer Parodneck and submitted to the special committee on un-American activities and printed in its hearings, Rose Nelson was one of the organizers of the Milk Consumers Protective Committee, functioning in that capacity as a representative of the Progressive Women's Council, a well-known Communist party organization. Miss Nelson is an avowed member of the Communist party. Mr. Parodneck further stated in his affidavit that the Milk Consumers Protective Committee had been temporarily located in the offices of the Consumers Union.

The New York State Campaign Committee of the Communist party recognized in one of its campaign pamphlets in 1936 that the Milk Consumers Protective Committee expressed the party's interest in the fight against the "milk trust."

In the New Republic March 20, 1935, Meyer Parodneck wrote a glowing account of the position and progress of consumer co-operatives in the Soviet Union. In his article Mr. Parodneck made it clear that his own ultimate objective was to achieve the abolition of the system of free enterprise and to substitute for it some form of economic collectivism, indicating his special bias in favor of the Soviet Union.

Consumer-Farmer Milk Co-operative.

Susan Jenkins and Meyer Parodneck have been among the most active leaders of the Consumer-Farmer Milk Co-operative. Among the directors and sponsors of this milk co-operative are seven representatives from the Consumers National Federation, an organization which will be discussed later. Meyer Parodneck is president of this co-operative.

Among the sponsors of the organization are the following:

James P. Reid, chairman membership committee, International Workers Order;

Max Bedacht, general secretary of the International Workers Order;

Michael Quill, whose communist connections have already been mentioned.

New York Consumers Council.

Susan Jenkins has been vice-president and moving spirit of the New York Consumers Council.

Against the High Cost of Living.

In various parts of the country communists and their sympathizers have set up organizations purporting to combat the high cost of living. Among these are the following:

The Greenwich Village High Cost of Living Conference of New York City.

The Central Action Committee Against the High Cost of Living of Detroit.

The United Conference Against the High Cost of Living of Chicago.

City Action Committee Against the High Cost of Living of the Bronx, New York.

United Conference Against the High Cost of Living of Los Angeles.

City Action Committee Against the High Cost of Living of New York City.

In all of the foregoing organizations devoted ostensibly to fighting against the high cost of living, known communists or communist sympathizers have taken active leadership.

In Chicago, Mrs. Alice Belester is executive secretary of the United Conference Against the High Cost of Living. According to the Daily Worker, December 13, 1933, Mrs. Belester was a financial contributor to that Communist party publication. According to the Daily Worker, August 9, 1937, Mrs. Belester led a picket line through the Loop district with signs protesting an increase in the price of milk.

Consumers National Federation.

Early in 1937 some of the leaders of the foregoing organizations conceived the idea of forming a clearing house in which to federate the numerous consumer groups which they and their associates had set up. This clearing house was originally known as the Consumers Emergency Council. Later in the year the name was changed to Consumers National Federation.

Among those most active in the formation of the Consumers National Federation were the following: Meyer Parodneck, Susan Jenkins, Arthur Kallet, Andree Emery and Persia Campbell.

Among the organizations sponsoring one of its early conferences the Consumers National Federation listed the following: Consumers Union, Milk Consumers Protective Committee, American Youth Congress, League of Women Shoppers, Progressive Women's Council and the Workers Alliance. All of these are Communist "transmission belts."

Donald Montgomery, consumers counsel of the Department of Agriculture, has been active from the beginning in the work of the Consumers National Federation.

In recent hearings before the Temporary National Economic Committee, Mr. Montgomery presented a group of witnesses, most of whom represented consumer organizations, in the formation of which communists have played the leading role. Among Mr. Montgomery's witnesses were Mrs. Alice Belester, representing the United Conference Against the High Cost of Living in Chicago; Dexter Masters, representing Consumers Union, and Persia Campbell representing the Consumers National Federation.

The Consumers Guide, published by the consumers counsel of the Department of Agriculture, has given frequent and favorable publicity to the Consumers National Federation and to other organizations which are included in this report.

When Earl Browder appeared before the special committee on un-American activities, he named the Consumers National Federation as one of the "transmission belts" used by the Communist party for conveying its revolutionary propaganda to large numbers who are not members of the party.

General Observations.

This report on consumer "transmission belts" is a mere outline of the facts concerning some of the organizations in which the Communist party has played a major role. The purposes of the Communist party in this endeavor to enlist consumers are made clear from official Communist writings. Basically the aim is to utilize the protests of consumers against the real or fancied abuses which they meet in their day-to-day existence as buyers of goods; that is, to utilize these protests for the building of a movement which the party hopes to integrate with its own revolutionary program dictated from Moscow.

The Communist party aims frankly to overthrow the capitalist system and put in its place a Soviet system. The technic of revolution requires the party to work in every possible way to discredit—rather than repair where weaknesses exist—the economic structure of free enterprise in the United States. However, the Communist party does not stop at the utilization and exaggeration of real weaknesses in the capitalist system; it deliberately invents false ones and imputes them to the capitalist system for the purpose of overthrowing it.

Communists understand that advertising performs an indispensable function in a mass production economy, and that advertising as an economic process, wholly apart from questions which have to do with good or bad advertising copy, is as essential a part of the distributive mechanism as are railroads and retail outlets. Therefore, communists believe that to sabotage and destroy advertising, and through its destruction to undermine and help destroy the capitalist system of free enterprise, is a revolutionary tactic worthy of a great deal of attention.

The special committee on un-American activities is in possession of evidence which shows that a great part of the current popular and official attack upon advertising is the direct result of communist propaganda in the field of consumer organizations.

This is borne out by the recent action of a Government official in the Department of Agriculture who undertook an investigation of national advertising in Good Housekeeping magazine. This investigation was carried out by Work Projects Administration employees and paid for out of WPA funds. While there is no record of the findings of the investigation being used as a basis for action against the magazine, it may be assumed that such was the intention. That is evidenced by the close affiliation of the Government official in question with the heads of the Consumers National Federation and Consumers Union.

The statement of Arthur Kallet cited in an early section of this report is typical of the communist viewpoint, namely, that the complete abolition of the so-called profit system is the only remedy which consumer organizations should accept.

The publication of these communist "transmission belts," such as Consumers Union, make it clear that some of the current Government procedures against advertising and advertising media have been instigated and are being aided by those con-

sumer organizations which are under the control of communists.

Wherever communists have been able to penetrate educational institutions with their propaganda they have taken along with them their anti-advertising agitation as a regular feature of their broad attack upon the system of free enterprise. This agitation has been going on for years and is now being reflected in Government circles as well as large sections of the population who are wholly unconscious of any influence of communist propaganda.

The Communist party activity among consumers has been so extensive and the evidence available to depict that activity is so vast that months of investigation, as well as funds not now available to the special committee on un-American activities, would be required to complete the picture of which the foregoing is a mere sketch.