

Dies Lists Gains Made by Reds In California

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Report Cites Increase in
Membership and Drives
in Industries and Unions

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The House committee investigating un-American activities released today reports of the Communist party in California showing that a drive was put on to gain members in such key industries on the coast as airplane manufacture, shipping and oil and that the drive met with considerable success. The party membership in California was increased from 2,500 dues-paying members in 1936 to 6,000 in 1938, the Communists' own records showed.

Evidence is also in the hands of the committee to show that after this drive to extend Communism to airplane factories of the west coast, an attempt to burn down one of the largest plane factories was discovered just in time to save the plant.

The Communist records were obtained by committee investigators as part of the proceedings before the state conventions of the party in 1937 and 1938. The date of the 1938 convention was May 14 and 15, which antedated the beginnings of hearings by the committee, headed by Representative Martin Dies, Democrat, of Texas, on Red activities. No trace of records since the committee began its sittings have been found.

At the same time, a sub-committee of the Dies committee submitted a recommendation that Colin Ross be prevented from ever setting foot on American soil again. Ross was described as a "Nazi propagandist" who had not fully divulged to the State Department his connection with the Third Reich. He is now believed to be in Germany, after having made a tour of the country taking pictures of specialized industrial plants and lecturing under the auspices of the German-American Bund.

Among the goals which the California unit of the Communist party set for itself in 1937, according to its own records, was the recruitment of new members "with emphasis on mass recruitment, especially in important factories and industries—aircraft, oil, maritime, auto, rubber, railroad, ec."

The report of 1938 showed what success had been obtained so far in basic industries and key plants but asked for further efforts.

A summary of 1938 registration showed that forty-two Communists were employed in airplane factories, 472 as mariners and longshoremen, 109 in agricultural pursuits, twenty-five in railroading, nineteen in oil industries, twenty-five as electricians, thirty-one in newspaper offices and 297 in other office work.

Committee members are especially anxious to learn why recruiting drives should be so specifically devoted to factories and trades where sabotage would result in the crippling of essential services or where the fulfillment of military orders was involved.

Communist success in the penetration of labor unions was also reported to the 1938 convention as follows:

In A. F. of L. unions.....	698
In C. I. O. unions.....	1,457
In independent unions.....	166
In company unions.....	15
Total.....	2,336

In addition, there were 338 listed as Work Projects Administration employees and 498 as members of the Workers Alliance, left wing union of the unemployed.

Although the Dies committee divulged that Federal officials had issued warnings and secret orders concerning the Nazi activities of Ross, it stated that it was relying only on its own investigation.

This inquiry showed that Ross's speaking engagements over the country were arranged for by various Nazi consular officials and were promoted by the bund; that Fritz Kuhn, fuhrer of the bund, now serving a prison sentence for conversion of bund funds, had admitted his acquaintance with Ross and that Ross had been instrumental in sending thirty American boys to Germany, with the greater part of their expenses paid by Nazi organizations.

Ross had toured the country within the last twelve months, the investigation further showed, driven by a uniformed chauffeur, in a special Mercedes automobile, equipped with motion picture cameras and had attempted to photograph several specialized industrial plants. His photographic equipment was arranged to permit him to take pictures quickly and from any angle. There was evidence that Ross "doctored" some of his pictures so as to be derogatory to this country.

Ross, who was born in Vienna, was described as always plentifully provided with cash. He had registered at the State Department as an agent for various German interests but the committee expressed the opinion that he had not reported the full scope of his activities as required by law.

Ross sailed for Japan last March.