

RED GROWTH SWIFT, MATTHEWS ASSERTS

'United Front' Gain in Nation
in Last Few Years Has Far
Outrun Hopes, He Says

POINTS TO NEW DEAL AIMS

N.Y. Times
Likens Some to Those of Com-
munists—Alleges Plans to

Absorb Democratic Party

Aug 23/38

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
WASHINGTON, Aug. 22.—The "united front" movement of the Communist party had made more progress in the United States in a few recent years than had been hoped for in fifty and the movement continued in full swing, James B. Matthews of Washington, N. J., former president of the American League Against War and Fascism, testified today before the Special House Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities in the United States.

Mr. Matthews, who began his testimony Saturday, declared that major aims in the American program of the Communists were the disruption if not the absorption of the Democratic party, the control of labor unions and the placing of persons of Communist views or sympathies in responsible government positions.

In answer to a question, the witness said it was clear that certain immediate objectives of the Roosevelt Administration were very little different from objectives of the Communist party.

It was a matter of "pride and boasting" in Communist party circles, he testified, that the Communist party had "its friends, and sympathizers situated strategically in every important institution in this country—government agencies, newspapers, magazines, the churches, women's clubs, trade unions, universities and colleges and in industry."

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The Communist party, he added, had no interest in peace, job security or civil liberties as those things are understood by the average American.

"They are," he asserted, "the temporary ideas and ideals which the Communist party utilizes for its objective of bringing about class war, almost universal insecurity, and the complete abolition of civil liberties."

Manoeuvres in America to impress "the gullible" that the Communist party was in favor of peaceful methods of accomplishing its objectives were wholly false, he said.

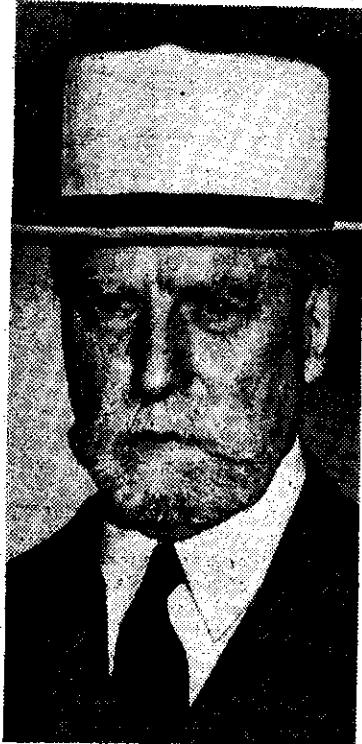
"The principle which is unalterable in communism," he continued, "is that violence, in which Communists take the offensive against the bourgeoisie, is necessary for the setting up of the dictatorship of the proletariat."

In a prepared statement the witness said:

"There are four orders of individuals who make up a Communist united front. We used all of them in the work of the American League.

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Hughes and Davis Return From Europe; Both Glad They Never Got to Be President



Times Wide World
Chief Justice Charles E. Hughes



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Alfred M. Landon of Kansas is not the only former Presidential nominee who has found consolation in his own defeat. Arriving yesterday on the Cunard White Star liner Queen Mary after vacations aboard were two other men who once were aspirants for the post of Chief Executive of the United States, and both agreed during the crossing from Cherbourg that they had no regrets.

Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes declined to be interviewed when the Queen Mary arrived, saying merely that he and Mrs. Hughes had enjoyed their two-month vacation in Italy and

was a different story, he added, in the case of the Committee for Industrial Organization.

"It was not very long ago when John L. Lewis, head of the C. I. O., was the man most hated by the Communist leaders in this country," he declared. "Today they are hanging to his coattails.

Names Some "Red Unions"

"In most cases A. F. of L. trade unions were more difficult to enroll in the united front. In those days, five years ago, the Communists had set up their own Red unions under an international body with headquarters in Moscow.

"Among these red unions which were participating in the newly formed American League were the National Textile Workers Union, the National Mine Workers Union, the Marine Workers Industrial Union, the Needle Trade Workers Industrial Union.

"Their presence in our united front was all the proof that A. F. of L. unions generally needed to establish the Communist control of the American League. There were, however, a few A. F. of L. unions in which Communists were effectively boring. Although they constituted an insignificant numerical minority in these unions, the 'planted' Communists were instructed by the party to introduce resolutions of affiliation with the American League. A number of these resolutions were adopted, although the union membership generally had no idea of what they were doing.

Switzerland and that he returned rested and in excellent health.

John W. Davis, unsuccessful Democratic candidate in 1924, said, however, that he and the Chief Justice had discussed the point the night before as the ship neared New York.

"Justice Hughes and I agreed that we never regretted for a split second that we were beaten in the Presidential elections," he related.

Mr. Davis said that the British were less apprehensive about a crisis in Europe's political turmoil than they had been on his last visit two years ago. Their minds are "filled with their own problems," he said.

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"Let's go back to labor for a moment," interrupted Representative Mason of Illinois. "I ask you if you have any knowledge of any C. I. O. organizers being members of the Communist party?"

"I do," replied Mr. Matthews. "Will you supply the committee with the names?"

"I will. I recall in the case of Harry Bridges that we were told that if he was landed he could be used to paralyze shipping on the Pacific Coast. The plan was also to get Communists in the Electric Boat plant, which is one of the principal yards building submarines for the United States Navy.

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er, took the chair to deny that he was a Communist. He said he was for the C. I. O. and the Spanish Loyalists, against Fascism and for peace and democracy. He was replying to a statement made by Mr. Matthews Saturday that Mr. Broun told him he quit the Socialist party to be free to work with Communists.

When Mr. Broun declared that the investigation "would get nowhere," Chairman Dies banged his gavel and told him he was excused.

The committee heard briefly the testimony of several workers on the Federal Theatre Project in New York. They supported testimony given Saturday and yesterday that Communists are active in the organization and that the Workers Alliance, which is alleged to be largely Communist, had a major voice in the administration of the project.

The committee will end its hearings in Washington tomorrow and in a week will divide into three subcommittees to hold hearings in the East, the Middle West and the Pacific Coast.

Matthews Called Strikebreaker

The American League for Peace and Democracy said in a statement here yesterday that J. B. Matthews left the league because, "as he himself wrote, his presence was extremely embarrassing inasmuch as he was a strikebreaker at the time of his resignation in the Fall of 1935."

The statement added that "he made his own brand of united front with the owners of Consumers Research when the technical and editorial workers of that concern went on strike in September, 1935."

The statement also declared the assertion by Mr. Matthews that an organizer is "shared by the American League and the Church League for Industrial Democracy" was false.

The statement proceeded:

"The Rev. William B. Spofford, acting national chairman of the American League and executive secretary of the C. L. I. D., speaking for both organizations, denies such sharing of an organizer. Matthews's statement that he was 'chosen by Earl Browder and his colleagues' to head the American League is quite as false. Matthews was elected chairman of the league in October, 1933, by the executive board. He held that office for four months, resigned, then joined the league again in January, 1935, only to resign under the cloud of strikebreaking in the Fall of the same year.

"His statement that all peace organizations changed their names simultaneously is as false as most of his assertions. The French and Australian Leagues are still titled 'Against War and Fascism.' The suggestion and decision of the American League to change its name from a negative to a positive expression of its aims were made at the last national Congress held in Pittsburgh in November, 1937."

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"Second, there are the fellow travelers who as a rule go along as faithfully as if they were actually party members. Usually these are middle class intellectuals—professors, 'stooges' and clergymen, and even Congressmen.

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"Third, there are the 'stooges.' These are persons of prominence whose names have considerable publicity value. They are the real decoys whose names do the work of covering up the Communist control of the united front.

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"This cry of red baiting is the best trick ever invented, short of a firing squad, for making short work of anybody who dares to object to Communist theories or practices. If he isn't effectively silenced, he is at least thoroughly discredited in that vast flock of citizens who like to think of themselves as liberals.

"A twentieth century American 'liberal' would rather face the charge of slapping his grandmother than to be accused of red baiting. And so the cry of red baiting enabled us to carry on the work of Moscow in this country with little or no molestation from knowing critics."

Concerning "boring-in" tactics of the Communists to get a foothold in American labor organizations, Mr. Matthews said that, except in a few isolated instances, not much progress had been made in the American Federation of Labor. It

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"When one of our publicity stories included the name of Corliss Lamont there was a rule that his family connections with the house of Morgan should be given appropriate emphasis. Marley's lordship was equally useful to our cause.

"It was recognized at the outset and at all times subsequently that only so-called imperialist war was to be opposed by members of the American League as such. Other kinds of war were admissible. The question frequently arose in our meetings as to the attitude of the American League toward a war by certain powers upon the Soviet Union.

"The answer was always twofold: if the United States joined in

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Moves Ascribed to Mangold

"Take, for example, Mr. William P. Mangold, who is one of the editors of The New Republic. Mr. Mangold is, and has been for several years, the treasurer of the American League for Peace and Democracy. The same Mr. Mangold recently appeared in the nation's capital as the representative of the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, where he succeeded in obtaining the signatures of sixty members of Congress of the United States to a greeting to be forwarded to the Loyalist government of Spain."

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