

New Deal Aim Held Same as Communists'

**Matthews Tells Inquiry
Programs Coincide and
Links O'Connor Purge
to Radicals' Campaign**

**Sixty in Congress
Called Soviet Dupes**

**Witness Recites Plan to
Split Democratic Party,
Sabotage Industry and
Seize National Control**

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22.—"Certain immediate objectives" of the New Deal coincide with those of the Communist party, Dr. J. B. Matthews, for ten years a "fellow traveler" of the Communist party and organizer or consultant on twenty of that party's "united front" movements, told the House Committee investigating un-American activities today.

An effort to have Dr. Matthews extend the parallels was cut short by the Democrats on the committee, who declined to go into the matter as "partisan politics."

However, Dr. Matthews definitely associated the efforts being made by the Roosevelt administration to "purge" Representative John J. O'Connor, Democrat, of New York, with the fight being made upon him by radical organizations.

Asked by Representative Noah M. Mason, Republican, of Illinois, if "the \$50,000 funds being raised by the Workers' Alliance to defeat Representative O'Connor is part of the Communist program?" the witness replied:

"It looks to me as if it was."

For the second day the witness took the committee behind the scenes of the Communist scheme for revolution as only an "insider" could, and calmly bared the plot to split the Democratic party, to bring about economic and political chaos and then to reap the benefits of that chaos as the only organization ready to take over the reins of government.

He cited plans for sabotage of industrial plants making munitions and for mutiny in the armed forces in case the United States should get into a war on a side opposed to the Soviet Union. The Red-controlled American League Against War and Fascism, he said, was only against imperialist wars and not wars in aid of the Soviets. This league later became the American League for Peace and Democracy, claiming 4,000,000 members, but controlled entirely by the "holy-war boys" of Communism, he said.

Again, Dr. Matthews recounted the part played by innocent, politically immature liberals whom he characterized as "dupes, stooges and decoys" for the "united-front" appendages of the Communist party. It got so that "decoys decoyed other decoys," he said in reference to how the game was worked on churchmen.

He cited how sixty Senators and Representatives, most of them quite innocently, had been caused to sign a greeting to the Parliament of the loyalist Spanish government.

He cited also the indorsement given for the parade in New York on August of the American League for Peace and Democracy by Robert H. Jackson, Solicitor General of the United States.

This organization, the witness declared today at even greater length than Saturday, when he named it as definitely organized and controlled by Communists. He was its first national chairman. Eight high officials of the Federal government, three of them of "little Cabinet" rank, have been named as belonging to the Washington unit of the organization.

Hollywood came in for a portion of the testimony when Dr. Matthews said many motion picture stars had been victimized by the innocent-appearing names and purposes of these united front organizations into lend-

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(Continued from page one)

ing their names to the movements. Recently, the leading Communist paper in France, "Ce Soir," featured hearty greetings from Clark Gable, Robert Taylor, James Cagney and even Shirley Temple, he said, and Bette Davis and Miriam Hopkins were listed as members of League of Women Shoppers. No claim was made by the witness that any of these were Communists, but, he asserted, they unwittingly served the propaganda purposes of the Communist party.

Almost everybody in Hollywood, "except Mickey Mouse and Snow White," had been signed up by the Communists at one time or another, the witness smiled.

"How about Charlie McCarthy?" asked Representative Joe Starnes, Democrat, of Alabama.

"The Communists have so many Charlie McCarthy's of their own they don't need any wooden ones," Dr. Matthews shot back.

Success Surprises Leaders

So tremendous had been the success of the Communist party in signing up the "innocents" and making them into a respectable "front" to draw others into the movement and imperceptibly intrench the party in American life, that the leaders expressed astonishment at the success of the last few years, according to the witness, quoting them as saying they had made more progress "than they had hoped to make in fifty years."

A diversion was created by Heywood Brown, columnist for the Scripps-Howard newspapers and president of the American Newspaper Guild, a Committee for Industrial Organization affiliate, when he appeared on the stand to deny that he had held a conversation with Dr. Matthews some years ago in which he told him that he was getting out of the Socialist party the better to work with the Communist party. He denied that he was a Communist but did not deny that he worked with the Communist party.

As the gavel was about to fall on his statement, which had been agreed upon in advance between him and the committee as to content, Mr. Brown managed to get in that he thought the committee was "wasting" its time.

Early in his testimony today, Dr. Matthews was asked to elaborate on the principal objectives of the Communist party in America.

The committee and members of the audience were silent, as if fascinated, while Dr. Matthews read from a prepared statement his considered opinion:

"The manner in which the 'United Front' activities of the Communist party are integrated into its whole strategy should be briefly sketched. The party aims ultimately at revolution—the complete overthrow of the system known as capitalism and the liquidation of the bourgeois class, so called. This ultimate aim, however, to be attained in stages which are conceived to follow logically one upon the other. These stages must be understood in order to comprehend the meaning of any Communist tactic at a given moment. I shall attempt to outline them.

"United Front" Phase

"The present stage in Communist strategy may be called the 'united front' phase. This is the period during which the party extends its influence in the many devious ways which I have tried to elucidate—a little radicalization here, a little there, boring, penetrating, infiltrating, ceaselessly maneuvering for some gain, however slight. The pro-

sant sabotage would do its work until finally the system would require a receiver. The Communist Party would then step in as the most militant, cohesive and highly disciplined minority available to take over the functions of government.

"Thus would the dictatorship of the proletariat inaugurate a Soviet America. The reactionary property holders and the idealistic believers in democracy and civil liberties would have to be slaughtered—not because the Communists love violence or bloodshed but because they look upon themselves as the fashioners of a new destiny for mankind."

When he had ended, Representative J. Parnell Thomas, Republican, of New Jersey, asked: "Would you say that the program of the New Deal party is in any way written by Communists?"

Says Objectives Coincide

"I wouldn't say that," Dr. Matthews replied, "but I think that from reading Communist literature it is clear that certain immediate objectives of the Administration coincide with those of the Communist party." He said further that although splitting of the Democratic party was the major objective, the tactics were by no means confined to the Democratic party.

"In certain sections there are many borers from within in the Republican party," he added.

Saturday the witness had said that "literally thousands" of Communists and sympathizers with communism, like himself, had joined the Democratic party, running for office and getting placed in key jobs wherever possible.

It was at this point that the matter of the fight being made on Representative O'Connor, chairman of the House Rules Committee, by both President Roosevelt and radical organizations, through a \$50,000 "slush fund," came up.

Senator Morris Sheppard, chairman of the Senate committee investigating campaign expenditures, said today he would present to his committee reports that this \$50,000 fund was being raised by the Workers Alliance, another assertedly Communist-controlled organization, for Works Progress Administration workers.

He said it would be a violation of Section 208 of the Federal Criminal Code for any candidate for Congress to receive contributions from relief workers who received their money direct from the public treasury. This would apply to the opponent of Representative O'Connor.

Dr. Matthews referred his questioners to any copy of "The Daily Worker" to show that Communists were offering their "enthusiastic support" to President Roosevelt's attack on conservative Democrats, in other states as well as in New York.

Thomas Links Programs

After the luncheon recess, Representative Thomas again sought to emphasize the matter of the similarity between the New Deal program and that of the Communist party.

"Are any of the actions in the United States recently similar to the actions which brought about dictatorships abroad?" he inquired.

"We are not concerned in the least about partisanship," quickly intervened Representative Starnes, who was acting as chairman.

"I want to try and show," said the questioner, "that high government officials in this city are under the influence of Communists. I think that the same steps are being

taken here as in those other countries."

"If you will name names and specify acts," began the temporary chairman.

"Very well, I will name them—"

"If you will do that, then I will see what the committee wishes to do about it," finished Mr. Starnes.

The New Jersey Representative then formulated this question: "Do you not think that the Supreme Court packing bill and the reorganization bill constitute a prelude to dictatorship in this country?"

Before the witness could reply, Representative Thomas was ruled out of order, subject to an appeal to the whole committee. With it stacked, four to two against the Republicans, no appeal was taken.

Says Radicals Aid Roosevelt

It was brought out by the witness, of his own accord, that half the Communist vote for President in 1932 was taken away in 1936 by reason of support given to the candidacy of President Roosevelt by radicals. Whereas the 1932 vote showed more than 100,000 votes for the Communist candidate, the total was cut to around 50,000 in 1936, although the party had grown in the meantime.

"It was generally known that Communist party support was thrown to the Democratic candidate," Dr. Matthews said. "I'm not saying it was sought."

"In fact it was repudiated," shot in chairman Martin Dies, Democrat, of Texas.

"That's correct," the witness replied.

One of the best defensive weapons in the armory of the Communist against criticism was the cry of "Red baiting," the witness averred. The average liberal, he said, "would rather face the charge of slapping his grandmother" than be accused of Red-baiting. The raising of this cry, he related, was enough to "enable us to carry on the work of Moscow in this country with little or no molestation from knowing critics."

Not only were old ladies and liberals fooled but also hard-boiled labor leaders and newspapermen, the witness continued. He cited the fact that for years John L. Lewis, chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization, was the particular anathema of the Communist party. Now a "delicate readjustment" had been made, he asserted, "and they are riding on the coattails of Mr. Lewis."

Communism was represented on newspapers to such an extent that there were Communist shop papers published in several large newspaper offices, the witness declared. He named "The New York Times" and the Scripps Howard and Hearst press as examples.

Turning to the general methods of the Communist party, the witness spoke of boring from within not only labor unions and other parties but also industrial plants and the United States Army. He quoted Donald Henderson, admitted Communist and ex-professor of economics at Columbia University, as saying that Communists had several strategic men in "important plants" and industries where they would be in a position to sabotage vital processes in the event of war.

Mr. Henderson was particularly boastful, he said, of the revolutionary nucleus in the submarine plant of the Electric Boat Company in Connecticut, and of the power wielded by Harry Bridges, alien head of the Pacific Coast maritime workers for the C. I. O. Bridges, who is now facing deportation proceedings, was in a position, he said, to tie up West Coast shipping.

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"In particular I call attention to the deliberate aim of disintegrating the Democratic party by driving a wedge between its so-called 'liberal' wing and its so-called 'conservative' wing. Before the Communist party can hope to advance far toward its revolutionary goal it understands, and rightly, that there must be a sweeping realignment of political forces in this country, that realignment is sought at the price of the very existence of the Democratic party.

"Out of the chaos of the Democratic party's destruction, it is expected that a national farmer-labor party would emerge. The backbone of this new grouping would be the industrial unions, a single political bloc numbering millions and susceptible of being moved as chess pieces upon the political board. The effort of the Communist party will be everywhere to hold a commanding influence—not necessarily a numerical majority—in these industrial unions, and consequently in the farmer-labor party.

Would Sabotage Capitalism

"With a farmer-labor party in power, the Communist party would exert every ounce of its influence to use it as a means to the sabotage of the capitalist system of production by placing upon that system burdens of restrictive legislation and enervating taxation. These ends would, it is hoped, be achieved by the slogans of social security, unprecedented sums for relief of every conceivable sort, until the collapse of the currency induced a major crisis in the working of the economy. Meanwhile, political power would be built upon these gifts of relief—a veritable monster of politics, insatiable in its appetite for compensation without toil.

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crisis,"

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