

Communist Front 'Union' Seeks Congressional Purge

Ouster of 29 Members in November

Object of 'Democratic Action' Group

TH By CHESLY MANLY *5/11/42*

A special supplement of the left wing magazine *New Republic*, just published, announced the undertaking of the so-called Union for Democratic Action to "purge" three Senators and 26 Representatives in the congressional elections this year.

Inquiry disclosed yesterday the State Department has a dossier on the Union for Democratic Action which it keeps in its officially denominated "Communist activities file."

Communist Front Members

The Dies Committee on un-American Activities also has extensive records concerning the organizers and members of the U.D.A., as well as their memberships in hundreds of other Communist front organizations.

Senators on the U.D.A. purge list are Wayland Brooks (R.), of Illinois; Arthur Capper (R.), of Kansas, and W. Lee O'Daniel (D.), of Texas.

The Representatives are Hamilton Fish (R.), of New York; Stephen A. Day (R.), of Illinois; Clare E. Hoffman (R.), of Michigan; Paul Shafer (R.), of Michigan; Howard W. Smith (D.), of Virginia; Martin Dies (D.), of Texas; William P. Lambertson (R.), of Kansas; Harold Knutson (R.), of Minnesota; Eugene E. Cox (D.), of Georgia; William B. Barry (D.), of New York; Frank Keefe (R.), of Wisconsin; Leland Ford (R.), of California; Charles Faddis (D.), of Pennsylvania; Everett Dirksen (R.), of Illinois; Dewey Short (R.), of Missouri; Joshua L. Johns (R.), of Wisconsin; Martin Sweeney (D.), of Ohio; John Rankin (D.), of Mississippi; Karl Mundt (R.), of South Dakota; James Van Zandt (R.), of Pennsylvania; Joseph Starnes (D.), of Alabama; Thomas Winter (R.), of Massachusetts; Harry Coffee (D.), of Nebraska; J. Parnell Thomas (R.), of New Jersey; James F. O'Connor (D.), of Montana, and Frederick Smith (R.), of Ohio.

But Not Marcantonio

Most of these members were leading non-interventionists before Pearl Harbor, but not all of them. Representatives Dies, Starnes, Smith of Virginia and Cox, for example, consistently supported the Administration's war policies before Pearl Harbor. But they are outstanding foes of Communism.

Representative Vito Marcantonio (A.L.), of New York, who has been characterized by former Postmaster General James A. Farley as the only Communist member of Congress, is not on the U.D.A. purge list. During the period of the Hitler-Stalin alliance from August, 1939, to June, 1941, Marcantonio consistently opposed the Administration's war policy measures and even voted against some of the most important authorizations and appropriations for our own Army and Navy. But he is a patriot to the U.D.A.

The *New Republic* "purge" issue violently attacks the *Chicago Tribune*, accusing it of "treachery." The Senators and Representatives on the purge list are termed "obstructionists." The magazine disclaims any intention of implying that they alone were obstructionists or that others should be forgiven. "In the House, perhaps the most dangerous man of all, since he is one of the most powerful, is Joseph Martin (Republican leader)," the article states.

Brooks Under Attack

The magazine makes the flat charge that Senator Brooks "has found real buddies among the Ku Klux Klanners. On August 27, 1940, at Rockford, Ill., Senator Brooks spoke to 60,000 Klansmen

and stamped this hate-renaissance party with the prestige of his high office."

"Of course this is a contemptible smear," said Senator Brooks. "I spoke on that day to approximately 100,000 persons attending the annual Trask Ridge picnic, which is the oldest and largest farmers' picnic in the Middle West. The speech was broadcast nationally and recorded for the newsreels."

Kenneth G. Crawford, Washington correspondent of *Marshall Field's PM* in New York, is a member of the executive committee of the U.D.A. PM has been described on the floor of the House as the uptown edition of the *Daily Worker*.

Amlie Capital Agent

Former Representative Thomas R. Amlie, of Wisconsin, is the director of U.D.A.'s Washington bureau. After Amlie had been repudiated by the Progressive Party in 1938, President Roosevelt nominated him for the Interstate Commerce Commission but was forced to withdraw the nomination to prevent certain rejection by the Senate. Members of the Interstate Commerce Committee said they could not stomach his program of revolution.

Officers of the U.D.A., all well known fellow travelers of the Communists, are Frank Kingdon, president; Reinhold Niebuhr, chairman; Robert Bendiner, John L. Childs and Franz Daniel, vice chairmen; Freda Kirchway, treasurer; Murray Cross, secretary, and James Loeb jr., executive secretary.

Miss Kirchway, or Mrs. Evans Clark, is editor of the *Nation*, another proletarian organ which closely follows the Communist party line. As long ago as 1927, she was listed as a member of the executive board and one of the owners of the *New Masses*, an official organ of the Communist party, in its own statement.

State Department's View

The following account of the U.D.A. is contained in the files of the State Department:

"The Union for Democratic Action, despite its name, is an aggregation of persons whose chief claim to public attention is their long record of affiliation with the front organizations of the Communist party.

"Even more sinister than the past records of the union's members is the objective of the group. That objective may be summarized briefly as the utilization of America's war crisis for the purpose of effecting what the union believes to be a program of social gains. Translated into stark realism, the union's idea of social gains is in the entrenchment of the proponents of class struggle even more deeply into American life.

"The case against the Union for Democratic Action may be stated in brief by calling attention to the fact that its outstanding leaders have long records of affiliation with the numerous front organizations of the Communist party.

Eight Typical "Travelers"

"To cite only a few of these individuals, the following may be named: Reinhold Niebuhr, Freda Kirchway, John L. Childs, Frank Kingdon, A. Philip Randolph, Herman F. Reissig, Margaret Forsyth and Morris Schappner. These eight individuals, who are typical of the entire membership of the Union for Democratic Action, have had at least 192 affiliations with Communist front organizations. The affiliations with Communist fronts of all the members of the union would represent a grand total of several thousand.

"Glancing at the list of Communist fronts in which the foregoing eight individuals have been active as leaders, we find the following: American League Against War and Fascism, American American League for Peace and Democracy, American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom, American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, Medical Bureau and North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, American Student Union, American Youth Congress, National Negro Congress, the New Masses, the Communist Party, and the League of American Writers."