

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

.....
HAROLD WEISBERG,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. 75-1448

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINIS-
TRATION,

Defendant
.....

AFFIDAVIT OF JAMES HIRAM LESAR

I, James Hiram Lesar, being first duly sworn, depose as follows:

1. In order to aid the Court's in camera inspection of the May 19, 1964, Warren Commission executive session transcript, I telephoned Mr. Marion Johnson of the National Archives and requested that the Archives provide Mr. Weisberg with copies of all records in the Warren Commission's PC-8 file pertaining to the right-wing political campaign against two Warren Commission staff members. I named Mr. Norman Redlich as one of these staff members; Mr. Johnson volunteered that Mr. Joseph A. Ball was the other.

2. On June 28, 1976, the National Archives gave me some 354 pages of Warren Commission papers relating to the campaign against Ball and Redlich and the Warren Commission's response to it.

3. Since that time, Mr. Weisberg and I have both reviewed these records. In the interest of time I, rather than Mr. Weisberg, am executing an affidavit summarizing their contents.

4. While the records obtained on Messrs. Ball and Redlich are not complete, they establish that the National Archives has made no discernible effort to restrict public access to the defamatory materials on these Warren Commission staff members in its possession.

5. The records on New York University Law Professor Norman Redlich begin with his personal letter to Chief Justice Earl Warren of December 1, 1963, which congratulated Warren on his appointment as head of the President's Commission on the assassination of President Kennedy and offered his assistance. [Attachment 1] A copy of a "biographical sketch" which Mr. Redlich submitted to the Warren Commission is attached to a January 10, 1964, routing slip addressed to Mr. Howard P. Willens, an Assistant Counsel to the Warren Commission. [Attachment 2]

6. The great mass of the records in the PC-8 file reflect a vicious and virulent campaign by right-wing political organizations and commentators to smear Prof. Redlich and force the Warren Commission to fire him so that its findings "will have no taint of communist connections." [Attachment 3]

7. The campaign against Prof. Redlich began as early as February 12, 1964, when Tocsin, an Oakland, California paper describing itself as "The West's Leading Anti-Communist Weekly", printed a front-page story claiming that a "prominent member of a Communist front", Mr. Redlich, was a member of the Warren Commission staff. [Attachment 4]

8. Less than two weeks later, Francis J. McNamara, Director of the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC), sent Congressman Gerald Ford a "report" on Norman Redlich compiled from unevaluated information contained in HUAC files. [Attachment 5] This "report" listed Prof. Redlich as a speaker, sponsor, or sup-

porter of three "communist fronts", each of which was engaged in activities to abolish HUAC, the compiler of this "report".

9. These files refer to at least two broadcasts against Mr. Redlich which were carried nation-wide by the electronic media, one by Paul Harvey on ABC, the other by Fulton Lewis, Jr. on Mutual. Mr. Weisberg has informed me that Mr. Lewis employed several former members of HUAC's staff on his own staff, and this his son, Fulton Lewis, III, made a movie in defense of HUAC and spearheaded its use of public funds to resist the efforts made to terminate it by legal and proper means.

10. Local radio stations and newspapers joined in the campaign against Mr. Redlich. Citizens and members of civic organizations frequently attached copies of such broadcasts and newspaper clippings to angry, hate-filled letters which they sent to their Congressman, the Commission, and Chief Justice Warren himself.

[Attachments, 6-9]

11. By March 16, 1964, this campaign caused the Warren Commission's General Counsel, Mr. J. Lee Rankin, to request that the FBI conduct a full field investigation of Messrs. Ball and Redlich. The campaign against Mr. Redlich also evoked a response from his friends and supporters, not to mention concerned citizens and the members of at least one civic organization. Thus, the PC-8 file also contains letters of praise from members of the New York University law faculty and a twenty-one page petition which his friends and students submitted on his behalf.

12. Ultimately, the members of the Warren Commission met in executive session on May 19, 1964, to discuss the allegations raised against Ball and Redlich. The files contain some indication that Congressman Gerald Ford moved for the dismissal of Mr. Redlich

from the Commission staff. [Attachment 10] The Commission, however, sent out a form letter stating:

On May 19, 1964, at a meeting attended by all the Commissioners, the Commission unanimously cleared all the members of its staff to handle classified information. The members of the staff who were cleared included Mr. Redlich.

13. The Warren Commission was unique in that only two of its seven members were from the Democratic Party and none were from the wing of the Democratic Party represented by the murdered President, John F. Kennedy. Two liberals on the Commission's staff were subjected at the outset to a sustained campaign of public villification which diverted the Commission's energies and very limited resources from the important tasks at hand. The impairment to the Commission's proper and unfettered functioning caused by his campaign is an important matter of public interest. Congressman Gerald Ford's performance on the Warren Commission, including his role in the campaign against Mr. Redlich, is also a matter of public interest, particularly in a year in which he is a candidate for the office of President.

14. Under Exemption 6 which the government has invoked as a justification for continuing to suppress the May 19 executive session transcript, the Court must weigh the public interest against the harm which might be caused an individual by an invasion of his right of personal privacy. Having reviewed the Warren Commission's PC-8 file, it is my judgment that the public interest in disclosure of the May 19 transcript far outweighs any right of privacy which might be claimed on behalf of Messrs. Ball and Redlich. In fact, this file makes it abundantly clear that subject matter of that executive session has been public knowledge for the past twelve years. It has been broadcast over the airwaves, printed in news-

papers, newsletters, and the Congressional Record. Whatever claim to an invasion of personal privacy might have been advanced on behalf of Messrs. Ball and Redlich evaporated when the National Archives made its collection of defamatory materials available to the public. Since Messrs. Ball and Redlich were reportedly cleared as a result of the action taken by the Warren Commission at its May 19, 1964, executive session, I am of the opinion that further suppression of the transcript of that session only serves the political interests of Commission member Gerald Ford in hiding his part in the campaign against them. Such suppression certainly does not serve the public interest, nor can it further harm individuals who are already throughly villified in the publicly available records.


 JAMES HIRAM LESAR

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Before me this 27th day of July, 1976, deponent James Hiram Lesar has appeared and signed this affidavit, first having sworn that the statements made therein are true.

My commission expires Aug 14, 1979.


 NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
 THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ATTACHMENT 1

C.A. No. 75-1448

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW
WASHINGTON SQUARE, NEW YORK 3, N.Y.

Redlich, Norman

FACULTY OF LAW

December 1, 1963

AREA CODE 212 SP 7-2000

Chief Justice Earl C. Warren
United States Supreme Court
Washington, D.C.

Dear Justice Warren,

Your appointment as head of the Presidential Commission was gratifying to all of us who have admired your work and who recognize the importance of the task you are undertaking.

Like most citizens I would like to contribute in some way at this time. I do not know what plans your Commission has for legal staff, but if there is anything I could do to help, please call on me.

Sincerely,

Norman Redlich
Norman Redlich
Professor of Law

RECEIVED
DEC 3 9 02 AM '63
CHAMBERS OF THE
CHIEF JUSTICE

TO—		NAME	BUILDING, ROOM NUMBER, ETC.
1.	<i>Ms. Williams</i>		
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

FOR— <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED <input type="checkbox"/> CORRECTION <input type="checkbox"/> FILING <input type="checkbox"/> FULL REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> HANDLE DIRECTLY <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF _____ <input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE BEFORE _____			<input type="checkbox"/> IMMEDIATE ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> INITIALS <input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN <input type="checkbox"/> READ AND DESTROY <input type="checkbox"/> ALLOTMENT SYMBOL			<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION <input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> YOUR COMMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION		
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--

FROM	<i>J. L. R.</i>	DATE	<i>1-10-64</i>
REMARKS			

Biographical Sketch - Norman Redlich

Born - November 12, 1925, New York, New York.

BA - Williams College (Magna Cum Laude) - 1947

LL.B. - Yale Law School (Magna Cum Laude) - 1950

While at Yale was Executive Editor of the Yale Law Journal and ranked first in class.

LL.M. - New York University School of Law - 1955.

After a career in business and law entered the full-time teaching of law in 1959 at New York University School of Law. Achieved rank of Associate Professor in 1960 and Professor of Law in 1962.

Honorary Societies: Phi Beta Kappa and Order of the Coif

Memberships: American Bar Association and Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Current Professional Activities: Counsel, New York Committee to Abolish Capital Punishment. Member of the Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress. Member of the Advisory Board of the New York University Institute on Federal Taxation. Editor-in-chief of Tax Law Review of New York University School of Law.

Civic Activities: Member of Planning Board No. 2 of Borough of Manhattan. Member of Executive Board of the Greenwich Village Assn.

Publications: Have written for the Tax Law Review, New York Univ. Law Review, Syracuse Law Review, author of the Constitutional Law Article in the Annual Survey of New York Law.

Military Service: United States Army - 1943 to 1945.

Overseas Service: 100th Infantry Division - 1944 to 1945. Received Combat Infantryman's Award.

Married Evelyn Jane Grobow, M.D., June 3, 1951. Three Children ages 5, 7, and 9.
Residence: 29 Washington Square, New York City.

*Paul
Redlich White*

The Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

THOMAS NELSON JUNIOR CHAPTER

PRESIDENT
EDWIN K. PHILLIPS
P. O. Box 18
NEWPORT NEWS, VA.

VICE-PRESIDENT
HON. CONWAY H. SHEILD, JR.
232 JAMES RIVER DRIVE
NEWPORT NEWS, VA.

SECRETARY AND REGISTRAR
CAPT. ROBERT W. ORRELL
~~U. S. ARMY~~
CARDINAL, VA.

TREASURER
DOUGLAS M. BRAXTON
3201 CHESAPEAKE AVE.
TOHAMPTON, VA.

CHAPLIN
THE REV. MR. SAMUEL H. SAYRE
MATHEWS, VA.

THOMAS NELSON JR. COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE

W. M. HARRISON, CHAIRMAN
THE DAILY PRESS, INC.
NEWPORT NEWS, VA.

LEWIS H. HALL
219 - 27TH STREET
NEWPORT NEWS, VA.

ARTHUR D. STRONG
P. O. Box 1867
WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

THE WARREN COMMISSION,

Chief Justice Earl Warren
Senator Richard B. Russell
Senator John Sherman Cooper
Representative Gerald Ford
Representative Hale Boggs
Mr. John J. McCloy
Mr. Allen Dulles
Chief Counsel J. Lee Rankin

GREETINGS:

Whereas, it has come to the attention of the Thomas Nelson Jr., Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, that the Warren Commission appointed to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has employed as an assistant one, Norman Redlich, a former professor of New York University.

Whereas, Mr. Redlich has definite associations with known communist fronts, and particularly, the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, so designated by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Recently Mr. Redlich's name appeared as a co-signer in a large advertisement in the NEW YORK TIMES as a birthday celebration for the ECLC.

Whereas, this Chapter has taken notice of the above information,

Therefore, be it Resolved that this Chapter, by Resolution, requests the removal of Mr. Redlich from the Warren Commission work so that its findings, when made public, will have no taint of communist direction, because the alleged assassin of our former President had definite communist connections.

It was requested that the Chapter Secretary forward the above Resolution to each member of the Warren Commission, the Virginia Senators and Representatives in Washington.

By direction of Chapter President,

9 June 1964
Chapter Meeting

Edwin K. Phillips,

copies to:

President Lyndon B. Johnson
President General of S. A. R.
Virginia D. A. R.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

Edwin K. Phillips
Secretary

TOCSIN

SEE WEST'S LEADING ANTI-COMMUNIST WEEKLY

TM

COPYRIGHT BY TOCSIN, INC., 1964

Vol. 5, No. 6

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 12, 1964

20 Cents

ON WARREN COMMISSION STAFF

Red-Fronter in Death Probe

A prominent member of a Communist front is a member of the staff of the Warren Commission investigating the slaying of President Kennedy.

He is Norman Redlich, a professor at New York University Law School, who is acting as assistant counsel to the commission.

Redlich is listed on a July 1953 letterhead of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee as a member of the group's executive committee. The Emergency

The Emergency Civil Liberties Committee is an organization with headquarters in New York, whose avowed purpose is to abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities and discredit the FBI, the 1959 annual report of the HCUA stated.

"The committee finds that the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, established in 1951, although representing itself as a non-Communist group, actually operates as a front for the Communist Party. It has repeatedly assisted, by means of funds and legal aid, Communists involved in Smith Act violations and similar legal proceedings. One of its chief activities has been and still is the dissemination of voluminous Communist propaganda material."

Civil Liberties Committee has been named a Communist front by both the House Committee on Un-American Activities and the Senate Internal Security Sub-committee.

One of the ECLC's executives has been identified Communist Frank Wilkinson, a present leader of the Communist-run National Committee to Abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

COMMUNIST CLEMENCY

When Wilkinson and his co-defendant, Communist Carl Braden, were in prison for contempt of Congress in 1951, Redlich was among persons who signed an appeal to the President for clemency. This is revealed in the Dec. 4, 1951, issue of the Communist National Guardian, the New York-based weekly which has led the campaign to disculpate Lee Harvey Oswald in the President's assassination (see accompanying story).

The 1953 letter from the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee makes an appeal for support for two groups accused of supporting Communist causes. One was Advance, cited as a subversive organ-

ization and required so to register under the McCarran Internal Security Act. The other involved three University of Indiana students accused of violating state sedition laws while members of the Trotskyite-Communist Young Socialist Alliance.

Redlich had earlier publicly condemned a decision by the Supreme Court to enforce registration by Communists under the McCarran Act, according to the Communist Worker of June 24, 1962.

The Worker also names Redlich as among "notables (who) denounce attack on the peace movement" during the 1962 hearings by the House Committee on Un-American Activities on the avowedly Communist-backed Women for Peace organization (Worker, Dec. 18, 1962).

A member of the advisory committee-information of the New York Council to Abolish the HCUA, Redlich signed a petition in the New York Times Feb. 22, 1962, condemning the anti-subversive committee.

He was a scheduled speaker Feb. 24, 1961, at an anti-HCUA meeting in New York City, along with Frank J. Donner, an identified Communist lawyer. Sponsor of the meeting was the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee.

The Communists In the Co-ops

Identified Communists elected as congressmen of the Northern California chain of Consumers Cooperatives last summer included Charles G. Drasin, Russian-born former veterans director of the South Berkeley branch of the Communist Party.

Drasin, 59, of 746 61st St., Oakland, was elected to serve at the Telegraph Avenue Co-op center in Berkeley.

A registered Communist voter in Alameda County in the 1940's, Drasin later listed his affiliation with the Communist-run Independent Progressive Party until 1955.

He was convicted of illegally distributing Communist literature during a 1941 East Bay strike.

Drasin is wed to the former Wenonah Nedelsky who has recently served as

(continued on page 2)

GERALD R. FORD
FIFTH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN
WASHINGTON, D.C., ADDRESS:
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, ADDRESS:
425 CHERRY STREET SE.
GRAND RAPIDS 2, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

March 27, 1964

Mr. Lee Rankin, General Counsel
Presidential Commission on the Assassination
of President Kennedy
Washington, D. C.

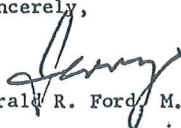
Dear Lee,

Pursuant to your telephone call this afternoon I am forwarding to you a letter I received from Francis J. McNamara dated February 27th with certain enclosures. Also enclosed is a letter which I received from Mr. McNamara dated March 17th.

When the enclosed have served your purposes will you please return them.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,


Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:mr

Encl.

EIGHTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

EDWIN E. WILLIS, LA., CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM M. TUCK, VA. AUGUST E. JOHANSEN, MICH.
JOE R. POOL, TEX. DONALD C. BRUCE, IND.
RICHARD H. ICHORD, MO. HENRY C. SCHADEBERG, WIS.
GEORGE F. SENNER, JR., ARIZ. JOHN M. ASHBROOK, OHIO

FRANCIS J. MCNAMARA, DIRECTOR

FRANK S. TAVENNER, JR., GENERAL COUNSEL
ALFRED M. NITTE, COUNSEL

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
WASHINGTON

February 27, 1964

Honorable Gerald R. Ford
351 House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman Ford:

Pursuant to conversations he has had with you, Mr. Willis has asked me to forward to you the enclosed reports on Norman Redlich, staff member of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, and on Mark Lane, who unsuccessfully attempted to represent the interests of Lee Harvey Oswald before the Commission.

Re: Norman Redlich Report

The first sheet of this report, which contains only references to groups officially cited as Communist, is the normal report furnished by the Committee in response to requests for information on Redlich. The second page, as noted, contains references to activities not officially cited as Communist. They are being furnished only to members of the Commission who desire information on Redlich because they shed additional light on his activities or association with groups and causes which -- though not officially cited as Communist -- are Communist influenced, originated, or oriented.

It may interest you to know that during the past few days Frank Wilkinson, who has been identified as a member of the Communist Party by two witnesses who have appeared before this Committee, has been in the House Office Building attempting to "lobby" Members to vote against this Committee's appropriation for the current year. Wilkinson is the Executive Director of the National Committee to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee, a group cited as Communist by this Committee in House Report 1278 of the 87th Congress.

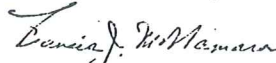
Wilkinson has been distributing in the House Office Building the February 21, 1964 issue of "Abolition News," bulletin of the National Committee to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee, which lists "Prof. Norman Redlich, Law, New York University," as one of the sponsors of the committee. A reproduction of this bulletin is enclosed for your information.

It may also interest you to know that certain facts on Redlich's background are now in the "public domain." Enclosed is a reproduction of page 1 of the February 12, 1964 issue of "Tocsin," a West Coast newsletter, which features an item on Redlich.

Re: Mark Lane Report

The two-page report, dated February 10, 1964, is the normal report furnished by the Committee in response to requests for information on Mark Lane. The longer report, dated February 20, 1964, contains supplementary information of the same general character as the information contained on the second sheet of the report on Mr. Redlich, and is being furnished for the same reasons.

Sincerely yours,



Francis J. McNamara
Director

Enclosures

PC 8
Redlich
Prof. Morris

INFORMATION FROM THE FILES OF THE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DATE: February 24, 1964

FOR: Honorable Gerald R. Ford

SUBJECT: Norman Redlich

This Committee makes NO EVALUATION in this report. The following is only a compilation of recorded public material contained in our files and should not be construed as representing the results of any investigation or finding by the Committee. The fact that the Committee has information as set forth below on the subject of this report is not per se an indication that this individual, organization, or publication is subversive, unless specifically stated.

Symbols in parentheses after the name of any organization or publication mentioned herein indicate that the organization or publication has been cited as being subversive by one or more Federal authorities. The name of each agency is denoted by a capital letter, as follows: A—Attorney General of the United States; C—Committee on Un-American Activities; I—Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee; J—Senate Judiciary Committee; and, S—Subversive Activities Control Board. The numerals after each letter represent the year in which that agency first cited the organization or publication. (For more complete information on citations, see this Committee's "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications.")

COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERSHIP

No evidence

COMMUNIST FRONTS

- 1955- EMERGENCY CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE (C-1958; I-1956)
1963 Speaker on the Fifth Amendment at Conference on an Appeal to Congress for a Rebirth of Freedom, New York City, April 16, 1955. [Call and Program of Conference] To speak at meeting called to promote abolition of House Committee on Un-American Activities, February 24, 1961, New York City. [The Worker, February 19, 1961, p. 12] National Council member. ["Rights." an ECLC publication, May, 1961, p. 6; letterheads, January 9, May and December 1962, April 29 and October 1, 1963] Among 25 professors who signed a statement published by ECLC condemning the Supreme Court decision of June 5, 1961 upholding the registration provisions of the Internal Security Act. [The Worker, June 24, 1962, p. 14]
- 1961- NEW YORK COUNCIL TO ABOLISH THE HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (C-1961)
1963 Sponsor of rally to be held April 21, 1961, New York City, jointly sponsored by the above organization and Youth to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee (C-1961). [letterhead, April 15, 1961; and press release, April 21, 1961, pp. 12 & 13] Member, Advisory Committee (in formation). [letterheads, April 20 & Oct. 12, 1962] Signer of statement protesting HCUA's hearings of May 6, 1963 on Violations of State Department Travel Regulations and Pro-Castro Propaganda Activities in the United States. [press release, May 6, 1963, p. 2]
- 1961 YOUTH TO ABOLISH THE HOUSE UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (C-1961)
Sponsor of rally to be held April 21, 1961, New York City, jointly sponsored by the above organization and New York Council to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee (C-1961). [See item above under New York Council to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee]

THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY
CITED AS COMMUNIST. THEY WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN A NORMAL COMMITTEE REPORT.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1961 PETITION FOR CLEMENCY FOR WITNESSES CONVICTED FOR CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

Signer of petition to the President asking for clemency for Carl Braden and Frank Wilkinson, who were both serving prison sentences for contempt of congress [undated, printed PETITION FOR CLEMENCY TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES; and the National Guardian, December 4, 1961, p. 8]. Braden and Wilkinson, identified Communist Party members, appeared before the Committee on Un-American Activities, July 29, 1958, during its hearings on "Communist Infiltration and Activities in the South." Braden refused to answer pertinent questions relating to membership in the Communist Party and Communist propaganda activities in the South, basing his refusal to answer on the first amendment, invalidity of the committee, and lack of pertinency of the questions to the subject under inquiry. Wilkinson based his refusal to answer questions relating to the activities and purposes of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee in the Atlanta area on the claim that the Committee on Un-American Activities was illegally established and on what he termed "a matter of conscience and personal responsibility."

1961- PETITIONS TO CONGRESS TO ABOLISH THE HCUA

1962 Signer of petition to the 87th Congress to eliminate the HCUA as a standing committee [advertisement, "Petition to the House," Washington Post, January 2, 1961]
Signer of "An Appeal to the House of Representatives-Abolish HUAC," a full-page ad of the Ad Hoc Committee, 160 N. 15th St., Philadelphia. [New York Times, February 22, 1962, p. C-17]

1962. PROTEST AGAINST COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Signer of statement on HCUA's hearings of December 11-13, 1962, asking: "... In the name of democracy and survival, ...cancel the proposed investigation into the peace program." [press release, Woman Striks for Peace, December 12, 1962; and The Worker, December 18, 1962, pp. 4 & 6]

1964 COMMITTEE TO AID THE BLOOMINGTON STUDENTS (three leaders of the Bloomington, Indiana, Young Socialist Alliance, the youth section of the Socialist Workers Party (A-1947; C-1948), indicted for subversive activity under a state sedition law)

Sponsor (letterhead states: Sponsorship in no way implies agreement with the political ideas of the defendants.) [letterheads, January 28 and February 5, 1964]

EIGHTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

EDWIN E. WILLIS, LA., CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM M. TUCK, VA. AUGUST E. JOHANSEN, MICH.
JOE R. POOL, TEX. DONALD C. BRUCE, IND.
RICHARD H. ICHORD, MO. HENRY C. SCHADEBERG, WIS.
GEORGE F. SENNER, JR., ARIZ. JOHN M. ASHBROOK, OHIO

FRANCIS J. MCNAMARA, DIRECTOR

FRANK S. TAVENNER, JR., GENERAL COUNSEL
ALFRED M. HITTLE, COUNSEL

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
WASHINGTON

March 17, 1964

Honorable Gerald R. Ford
351 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ford:

Since I last wrote to you at the request of Mr. Willis relative to the matter of Mr. Norman Redlich, some additional background data has come to the attention of the Committee.

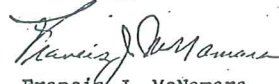
I am enclosing for your information a reproduction of a letter written by Redlich and published in the New York Times of October 13, 1961. It may interest you to know that the rally referred to by Mr. Redlich, the National Assembly for Democratic Rights, was one of the most blatantly Communist operations to take place in this country in recent years. Copies of the Committee's two-part hearing and report are still available should you desire to have a set.

The other item which has come to the Committee's attention is the fact that the Nation Magazine, issue of June 6, 1953, featured an article entitled "Does Silence Mean Guilt?" co-authored by Redlich and Laurent B. Frantz.

Frantz, with whom Redlich wrote this article, testified before the Special Committee on Un-American Activities on April 19, 1940. At that time he denied present or past membership in the Communist Party. Subsequently, however, he was identified as a member of the Communist Party by three ex-Communists who testified before the Committee -- Paul Crouch, on May 6, 1949; Howard A. Bridgman, on April 29, 1950; and Ralph V. Long, on November 30, 1954. Both Crouch and Bridgman testified that they knew Frantz as a member of the Communist Party in the 1930's. If their testimony was true -- and the Committee has no reason to doubt it -- this meant that Frantz had perjured himself when he denied on April 19, 1940, ever having been a Party member.

Frantz again testified before this Committee on May 14, 1960. At that time he invoked the Fifth Amendment privilege when asked about present and past Communist Party membership.

Sincerely,



Francis J. McNamara
Director

Enclosures

PC
Redkite, Norman

May 25, 1964

President Lyndon B. Johnson
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

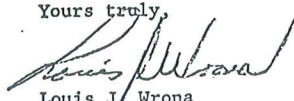
As an American citizen, deeply concerned with the welfare of our Country, I enclose an interesting news release which was broadcast by a local Dayton radio station and I believe it merits your immediate consideration.

In the past Justice Warren has rendered decisions very favorable to Communists or the Communist cause; therefore I am not surprised at the enclosed comments however I demand, as a citizen, that the matter in question be investigated.

I am an American first and secondly a Democrat, therefore I am sending copies of this letter and news release to the gentlemen, as listed, in case you may feel it is not politically expeditious to take action in this matter.

God help our degenerating nation!

Yours truly,



Louis J. Wrona
319 Central Ave., Apt. 2
Dayton, Ohio 45406

c.c.- J. Edgar Hoover, Esq., F.B.I.
Attorney General Robert Kennedy
Mr. Walter Cronkite, C.B.S. News
Senator Kenneth Keating
Senator Everett Dirksen
Chief Justice Earl Warren
Editor - New York Times
Editor - Washington Post
Huntley-Brinkley News

XERO COPY

XERO COPY

XERO COPY

XERO COPY

A

WAVI

Editorial

By: Gregg Wallace, News & Editorial Director
BROADCAST: Thursday, May 14, 1964

Mystery and uncertainty have surrounded the special committee selected by President Johnson to investigate fully the assassination of President Kennedy. At the outset there was criticism of having Chief Justice Earl Warren on the committee for fear that, at some later date, the Supreme Court might be faced with a case directly or indirectly connected with the tragic events of last November 22nd.

Then, after President Johnson emphasized the committee was to give the American people a complete and clear report on what occurred, Justice Warren suggested there may be some testimony that may never be revealed.

Later, Dictator Khrushchev sent the committee a supposed complete dossier on the activities of Lee Harvey Oswald, suspected slayer of the late president. This, to say the least, was rather fishy.

Now comes another incredible aspect of the Warren Commission: WAVI understands that the commission has hired at \$100.00 a day, as an assistant to James Lee Rankin, chief counsel to the committee, a man who is reportedly a Communist sympathizer!

38 year old NORMAN REDLICH, former New York University law professor, has, among other things, called for the abolition of the House Un-American Activities Committee, signed a petition asking executive clemency for communists, Carl Braden and Frank Wilkinson...and appeared in a letter-head as a member of the executive committee of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. The ECLC has been branded by two Congressional investigating committees as a Communist front organization. In fact, HUAC reports the ECLC was formed in 1951 and is actually operated as a front for the communist party!

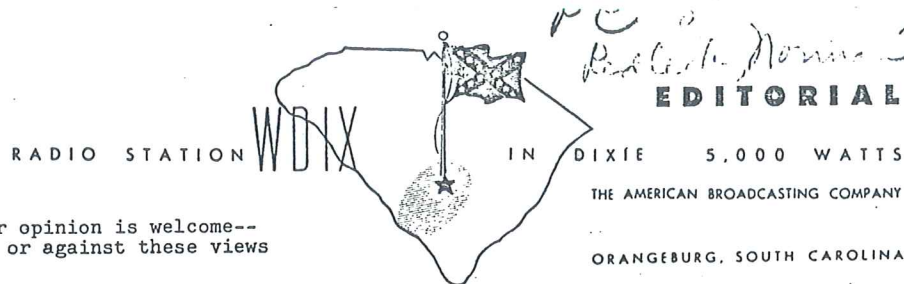
This means that Norman Redlich, apparently a communist fronter, is helping investigate the assassination of an American president, who was gunned down by a Marxist advocate! And, he's being paid a handsome salary from your tax dollars.

We wonder if your congressman knows this? In fact, we're even curious as to whether the members of the Warren commission have been alerted to this shocking situation?

That's Today's Editorial, I'm Gregg Wallace....

"It is the policy of WAVI to express its editorial opinion on matters of importance to our Community. Where comments are controversial, we invite opposing points of view, making equal time available to qualified groups or individuals."

WAVI BROADCASTING CORPORATION, DAYTON 8, OHIO



Your opinion is welcome--
 for or against these views

JUN 12 1964 Title: Accommodation or the Truth, Which?
 (Bcst Date)

Norman Redlich is a New York University law professor. Mr. Redlich is one of the top-men in the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. Mr. Redlich is one of the national council in the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. Mr. Redlich's Emergency Civil Liberties Committee is specifically organized to (quote) "...defend the cases of Communist law breakers", end quote the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Mr. Redlich volunteered for a job as consultant to the Warren Commission. Mr. Redlich's offer to work for the Warren Commission was accepted. The Warren Commission KNEW that Mr. Redlich asked for the job as consultant. The Warren Commission KNEW that Mr. Redlich is on the national council of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. The Warren Commission KNEW that this committee is organized to "defend the cases of Communist law breakers". Knowing these things, the Warren Commission employed Mr. Redlich as its consultant.

These are not obscure facts. There is no secret about these things. Roulhac Hamilton, who is the Charleston (S. C.) News and Courier's Washington correspondent, provided this news on May 1, just past. This information is available to all newsmen and all news media.

When President Johnson appointed the Warren Commission, the President stated that he wanted these men to bring out the full and complete truth about the murder of President Kennedy. That is the President's announced purpose in appointing the Warren Commission. Do you think that you will get the truth about the Oswald murder of President Kennedy? Why not? We do not here state that we question the sincerity of President Johnson, Chief Justice Warren, Senator Richard Russell of Georgia or any of the Commissioners - or, of Mr. Redlich, who is in the business of defending Communist law breakers. We do here state that there is an impelling reason why ALL of these gentlemen would want no reaction of the people of the United States against the official policy of the U. S. government. That policy is the accommodation of your life to that of Communism. We have used the official word in government terms, "accommodation". One other element is interested in the truth of Oswald's murder of President Kennedy. We quote, "Justice and the internal security of the nation call for the most complete investigation and revelation of all factors...(by a committee) headed by Chief Justice Warren", end quote the (Communist) Worker on page 8 of the November 26, 1963 issue. The Communists offered Chief Justice Warren. President Johnson appointed him. Mr. Redlich offered himself. Chief Justice Warren accepted him. Is it important to accommodate your life to Communism - or, to know the truth about President Kennedy's murder? President Johnson and Senator Russell can be reached with your letters and those of your friends and relatives all over this nation. Accommodation or the truth - which?

Redlich

May 8, 1964

RECEIVED
MAY 13 10 15 AM '64
CHAMBERS OF THE
CHIEF JUSTICE

Mr. Earl Warren, Chief Justice
United State Supreme Court Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Justice Warren:

In recent days the newspapers have carried information relative to a Mr. Norman Redlich who is serving as a member of the legal staff investigating the assassination of President Kennedy. From the articles I also ascertain that Mr. Redlich is considered one of your investigators for this special commission.

In view of the background of Mr. Redlich and his association with communist front organizations, I am very much interested in your answer as a member of the legal profession. In view of the circumstances surrounding the President's death, how can you with knowledge so dispatch a person with Mr. Redlich's background to investigate or in any way participate in the commission's activities to determine the truth regarding Lee Harvey Oswald?

I respectfully request an answer in view of the information enclosed in the attached article. The American people have the right to know through what reasoning a jurist of the highest court in the land arrived at such a conclusion.

Sincerely yours,

Marion Hickingbottom

Marion Hickingbottom (Mr.)
105 South Turner
Searcy, Arkansas

Warren's Aide Grows Redder

Communist Ties Revealed Of Assassination Group's Legal Consultant

From The Commercial Appeal
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, May 6.—Official sources Wednesday revealed additional information about the Communist associations of Norman Redlich, the Warren Commission's \$100-a-day legal consultant.

Members of Congress have asked the commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, to fire the 38-year-old New Yorker since his membership in organizations cited as Communist-controlled has become known.

Within recent days it has become known that he is a member of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, the National Committee to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee and the Youth Committee to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee.

The Warren Commission is investigating President Kennedy's assassination, including rumors that his death was the result of either a right-wing or Communist plot.

Additional details disclosed Wednesday about Redlich's past activities and associations included:

That he was one of the signers of a leaflet distributed in November by the permanent student committee for travel to Cuba which supported the defiance by 59 Americans, mostly students, of a State Department ban on travel to Cuba.

One of the 59 Americans, Phillip Luce, a student, is employed by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee which has been cited as Communist controlled. Redlich is a national councilman of the committee.

Redlich and others signed an April 13 newspaper advertisement condemning the House un-American Activities Committee. Another signer was Waldo Frank, one of the original organizers of the fair play for Cuba committee, which has been cited as a Communist front by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

Other signers of the April 13 advertisement included persons who have invoked the protection of the Fifth Amendment rather than answer questions about any Communist connections.

Redlich was attorney for Harry Magdoff, who invoked the Fifth Amendment May 31, 1961, when asked about his Communist ties. Magdoff was identified in July, 1948, as a Communist.

Redlich was among 25 law professors who signed a statement disagreeing with a Supreme Court decision requiring the Communist Party, U.S.A., to register with the Subversive Activities Control Board.

Redlich has made speeches and signed statements urging abolition of the House Un-American Activities Committee, a favorite target of Communists.

He has been associated with appeals for clemency for Carl Braden and Frank Wilkinson, both of whom are associated with the Communist movement.

JOLLY AND WOLTER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
WINTER HAVEN, FLORIDA

July 21, 1964

TELEPHONE 293-1114

P. O. BOX 979

HENRY L. JOLLY
RUTHELED B. WOLTER

*Replied, 7/28
Norman*

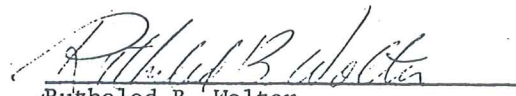
Warren Commission
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

The enclosed material, which is highly critical of certain actions of the Warren Commission and of the State Department, has been distributed by the Florida State Elks Americanism Committee to all the members of the Elks organization in Florida.

I am a member of the Elks and am interested in any comments or additional information you may have with respect to the matters discussed in the brochure enclosed. If you wish, I will be glad to pass this material on to the State Elks' office and request that they advise each member of the State Elks organization of the contents of your reply.

Very truly yours,


Rutheled B. Wolter

RBW:AB
Enc.

Florida State Elites Americanism Bulletin
May - June 1964
Volume II Number 3

A SECURITY RISK ON THE WARREN COMMISSION

On 12/20/63, Norman Redlich was hired by the Warren Commission - named to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy - as a \$100.00 a day legal consultant.

The following is a brief sketch of some of Mr. Redlich's activities:

1. He is a member of the National Council - the governing body - of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. This Committee has been identified by two Congressional committees and the F.B.I. Director, J. Edgar Hoover, as a communist front organization which serves, among other things, as a propaganda and legal defense arm for the communists.
2. Redlich has solicited funds for the legal defense of three youths indicted by a Federal Grand Jury last September for illegal travel to Cuba as guests of Castro's government and for "conspiring to organize and promote a trip to Cuba in violation of United States travel laws."
3. Early last year, Redlich protested hearings of the House Committee on Un-American Activities on violations of State Department travel regulations and pro-Castro propaganda activities in the United States. Abolition of the House Committee on Un-American Activities has long been a goal of the communist party.
4. On 2/21/64, Abolition News, the bulletin of the National Committee to Abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities, carried Redlich's name as one of the committee's sponsors. Seven of the thirteen top leaders of this organization are identified communists.

In spite of Norman Redlich's background, The Warren Commission has refused to terminate his employment and has even given him access to classified material.

Last February, the Warren Commission chairman, Chief Justice Earl Warren, stated that some of the testimony gathered by his commission might not be released in our lifetime. Doesn't it seem unfair that a man who promoted communist goals should be paid \$100.00 a day by American taxpayers and even allowed access to classified material, while patriotic Americans are told they might not ever know all the results of an investigation for which they are paying.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Those readers who are concerned about this unfair and dangerous situation should immediately write their United States Congressman and their two United States Senators and demand that Mr. Redlich be dismissed and that ALL of the testimony by the Warren Commission be made public.

For further details regarding Redlich see Congressional Record, 5/14/64, p. 10608 and Congressional Record, 5/25/64, p. 11418.

SECURITY RISKS IN OUR STATE DEPARTMENT

A series of recent developments offer a key to exposing security risks now operating in the United States State Department. Since few Americans are aware of the developments, it is doubtful that a full exposure of the subversives and their dupes will be made unless the American public is awakened to the facts and demands action.

HERE ARE THE FACTS:

1. A memorandum dated 7/27/56 and signed by the late Scott McLeod, then administrator of the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs in the State Department, has been recently turned up by Congressional investigators. The memorandum reveals the existence of a secret official list containing the names of over 800 employees and officers of the U.S. State Department who have been declared as security risks. The list includes the names of pro-communists, homosexuals, alcoholics and officers suspected of being communist agents. The list was compiled under the direction of the State Department's top security officer.
2. A Polish defector from the Soviet Secret Police (KGB), Michal Goleniewski, has bared the existence of "calls" of the KGB in the U.S. State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency both in Washington and in U.S. Embassies overseas. Goleniewski also revealed that:
 - Three American scientists with access to classified material were KGB agents.
 - About \$1.2 million of CIA funds in Vienna was secretly passed to the communists.
 - All important embassies and agencies of the United States "except the FBI" had been infiltrated by at least one KGB operative.
3. Otto Otepka, top professional security officer of the State Department, was dismissed last November for having cooperated with the Senate Internal Security Committee in its investigation of the security situation. Otepka had put together the evidence exposing the role played by the U.S. State Department in bringing Castro to power. He was also responsible for blocking some security risks from being placed in sensitive positions.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write your U.S. Congressman and two U.S. Senators and request a full scale investigation of the U.S. State Department. Use the facts given in this article and point out that the Red penetration of our State Department and other government agencies should be eliminated and halted. It will not solve the problem to merely expose those who are security risks. It will be necessary to also hold accountable those officers who employed, promoted, and protected these subversives and undesirables. If you desire further details concerning the security risks in our State Department, we refer you to Congressional Record, 3/3/64, p. 4112 and Congressional Record, 5/26/64, p. A2777.

.....

OPERATION CITIZENSHIP

We would appreciate having those readers who participate in Operation Citizenship, by writing their Congressional Delegation, complete the form below and return to:

NAME _____

ELKS AMERICANISM BULLETIN
P. O. BOX 966
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

ADDRESS _____

I wrote my Congressional Delegation regarding: () The Warren Commission
() The State Department

We appreciate the many copies of letters which previous participants in Operation Citizenship have mailed to us.

SAMUEL L. DEVINE
12TH DISTRICT, OHIO

DISTRICT OFFICE:
POST OFFICE BUILDING
COLUMBUS 15, OHIO

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

PC-8011W
COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE
AND FOREIGN COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE:
TRANSPORTATION AND
AERONAUTICS
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE
ADMINISTRATION
SUBCOMMITTEE:
ELECTIONS

August 28, 1964

J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

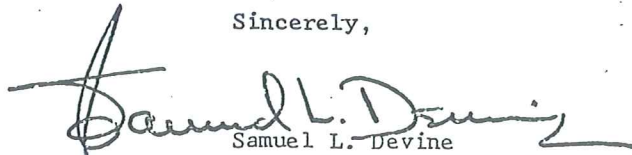
Thank you for your reply to my inquiry addressed to the Chief Justice concerning the method of appointing staff members of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy.

You probably realize my comments were directed at Norman Redlich because of his alleged support of Communist-front activities. My colleague, Congressman Johansen, indicated that Mr. Redlich had maintained his membership on the National Council of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee which has been identified by two Congressional Committees and the F.B.I. as a Communist-front activity.

If this is true, it seems exceedingly strange that a man of this background would be appointed to a Commission investigating the circumstances of the assassination of President Kennedy by a Communist oriented assassin.

I am also led to believe that Congressman Gerald Ford moved for the dismissal of Norman Redlich from the Commission and that his motion was overruled. If this is true, it would seem unusual that the members of the staff were unanimously cleared by all of the Commissioners. A copy of your letter is being sent to Congressman Ford for his comments.

Sincerely,


Samuel L. Devine
Representative to Congress

SLD/mp
cc: Gerald Ford, M.C.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

.....
HAROLD WEISBERG,

Plaintiff,

v.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINIS-
TRATION,

Defendant
.....

C. A. No. 75-1448

FILED
JUL 28 1976
JAMES F. RAVEY
CLERK

NOTICE OF FILING OF AFFIDAVIT

Comes now the plaintiff, Mr. Harold Weisberg, and hereby gives notice of the filing of the affidavit of James Hiram Lesar, together with its attachments.

James H. Lesar

JAMES HIRAM LESAR
1231 Fourth Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20024
Attorney for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this 28th day of July, 1976, mailed a copy of the foregoing Notice of Filing of Affidavit, together with a copy of the affidavit of James Hiram Lesar and its attachments, to Assistant United States Attorney Michael J. Ryan, Room 3421, United States Courthouse, Washington, D. C. 20001.

James H. Lesar

JAMES HIRAM LESAR