

Communism and 'Civil Rights'

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By Strom Thurmond

WASHINGTON—FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has confirmed in testimony before the House Appropriations Committee that Communist influence does exist in the Negro movement.

In his testimony, Mr. Hoover made a number of interesting statements on the record and even more interesting and revealing statements off the record. On the subject of Red infiltration of the Negro movements, he stated (on the record):

"TURNING TO the subject of Communist interest in Negro activities, the approximate 20 million Negroes in the United States today constitute the largest and most important racial target of the Communist Party, U. S. A. The infiltration, exploitation, and control of the Negro population has long been a party goal and is one of its principal goals today.

"The number of Communist Party recruits which may be attracted from the large Negro racial group in this Nation is not the important thing. The old Communist principle still holds: Communism must be built with non-Communist hands. We do

know that Communist influence does exist in the Negro movement and it is this influence which is vitally important. It can be the means through which large masses are caused to lose perspective on the issues involved and, without realizing it, succumb to the party's propaganda lures."

IN TESTIFYING on current issues being promoted by the Communists, Mr. Hoover made this statement: "Currently, the Communist Party, U. S. A. is stressing such domestic issues as the racial struggle; the abolition of all internal security programs and of congressional committees investigating communism; and the reduction of military spending with the diversion of such appropriations to a broad program of social welfare projects."

"On the international level, the party is dutifully echoing Soviet propaganda regarding peaceful coexistence and peaceful competition, disarmament, and end to nuclear testing and increased East-West trade. Woven into all the party's propaganda are basic Communist themes.

"IN ONE WAY or another, it stresses the never-ending 'class struggle,' the necessity for destroying the capitalist system, the claimed overwhelming superiority of communism over all other social orders, and the inevitable triumph of communism in the United States—and throughout the world."

Mr. Hoover stressed the Communist activities to attract and influence young people. He pointed out that the Communists determined that the appeal to young people emphasize three current items: "peace, civil rights, and employment for youth."

LAST YEAR I brought out in the Commerce Committee's hearings on "civil rights" and on the Senate floor that "there is Communist influence in and penetration of the current Negro demonstrations and agitational efforts in this country."

I demanded that the Commerce Committee investigate information I put in the record of the hearings and in the Congressional Record proving my point. All these pleas, however, fell on closed ears and minds.

WRITER JOE ALSOP, a con-

fidant of the Attorney General has now revealed in a recent column that the infiltration of the Negro movements is "a very serious matter."

He reported further that the "subject of the real headshaking is the Reverend Martin Luther King. His influence is very great. . . . Yet he has accepted and is almost certainly still accepting Communist collaboration and even Communist advice."

THIS IS in direct contradiction with the response which the Attorney General made to the Commerce Committee when he was queried about Communist influence in the Negro movements and demonstrations.

He described Communist infiltration efforts as being "remarkably unsuccessful" and whitewashed King and other Negro leaders of connections with Communists.

WHEN MR. HOOVER went off the record, on Page 309 of the Appropriations Committee hearings, he made some very shocking and damaging statements which, unfortunately, are not being made public.

All the facts on Communist penetration of and influence over the "civil rights" activities in this country should be fully explored and aired by the Congress before any legislation inspired by these activities is approved.

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P.O. Box 19001
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