

Bridges Ban Raises Issue Of Other Reds

New Deal Doesn't Plan To Oust Communist Plotters and Aliens

By ARTHUR SEARS HENNING

In ordering the deportation of the Australian Harry Bridges for having been a member of the Communist Party, which plots the overthrow of the American Government by force and violence, the Roosevelt Administration brought to the fore these three questions:

1. What is the Administration going to do about several thousand and other aliens who are or were members of the Communist Party?

2. What is the Administration going to do about the plotting of the Communist Party and its 100,000 American members to overthrow the American Government by force and violence?

3. What is the Administration going to do about several thousand native Americans in the Government service who are or were members of the Communist Party or of the Communist front organizations which Attorney General Biddle held are clandestinely seeking the overthrow of our Government by force and violence?

Seeks Test Case

Attorney General Biddle is not disposed to take steps at this time for the deportation of aliens who are no less guilty than Bridges of affiliation with the Communist group of anti-American conspirators. He regards the Bridges deportation order a test case which, with Bridges taking an appeal, will be decided eventually by the Supreme Court in the next year or two. If upheld by the Supreme Court the Attorney General then would proceed to the deportation of other alien Communists.

As to the revolutionary plottings of the Communist party, the Department of Justice takes the position that under decisions of the Supreme Court no action can be taken in the absence of an overt act of force and violence to overthrow the Government. The conspirators therefore are allowed great latitude in the advocacy of subversive measures.

Could Purge Reds

There is, however, nothing to prevent the Administration from purging the Government service of Communists and fellow travelers. Their identity is known. Chairman Martin Dies (D.), of Texas, of the House Committee to Investigate un-American Activities, furnished the Attorney General with a partial list of them on October 19, 1941 and demanded their dismissal.

There were 1,124 names on Dies' list, including 207 in the Department of Agriculture, 145 in the Federal Security Agency, 98 in the Department of Labor, 72 in the Federal Works Agency, 70 in the Department of Commerce, 56 in the Treasury Department, 49 in the National Labor Relations Board, 46 in the District of Columbia government, 45 each in the War and Interior Departments, 44 in the Securities and Exchange Commission and 40 in the Navy Department.

Five of the persons listed hold \$10,000 positions, eight \$9,000, seven \$8,000, 24 \$7,000, 25 \$6,000, 55 \$5,000, 96 \$4,000 and 153 \$3,000.

Chairman Dies said that the retention of these Communists and fellow travelers on the Government pay rolls confirms the "widely held suspicion that a large and influential sector of official Washington is utilizing the present national emergency as a means for undermining the American system of democratic government." Most of the Government employees listed by Dies were members of Communist front organizations, notably the American League for Peace and Democracy, successor of the American League against War and Fascism, which Biddle said was organized to promote the Communist plot.

The Attorney General did not act on the Dies demand and the Congressman reported to the House on January 15, 1942, that "the flow of Communists and communist sympathizers into Government positions has not ceased." The left wing New Republic had already stated that "known Communist sympathizers again are finding it relatively easy to get Government jobs." The New Republic editor, Michael Straight, said at a dinner celebrating the tenth anniversary of Mr. Roosevelt's first inauguration that "the New Deal is more dynamic than Fascism and more revolutionary than Communism."

The New Republic is now collaborating with the left wing Union for Democratic Action in a campaign to purge Congress of Senators and Representatives who were noninterventionists before Pearl Harbor and at the same time incurred the displeasure of the radicals on labor and other social and economic legislation.

Plots Congress "Purge"

On January 16 Dies called attention to the employment by Archibald MacLeish's Office of Facts and Figures of another New Republic editor, Malcolm Cowley. Dies said that Cowley had no less than 72 connections with the Communist Party and its front organizations. Cowley resigned soon thereafter and went back to the New Republic.

On February 9 the President vetoed legislation designed to compel the Communist party to register under the Foreign Agents Act as the agent of the Soviet Union. The President said such legislation would embarrass full collaboration with Russia in the war. Dies said the reason for the veto obviously was that registration would expose the thousands of Communists who are holding key positions in the Government.