

Radical Speaks Softly to HUAC

By Richard L. Lyons
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The old House Un-American Activities Committee and the New Left met yesterday in a confrontation like a tea party where two unfriendly ladies talk politely with fingernails at the ready.

The Committee had called in Tom Hayden, 28, a top organizer of demonstrators at Chicago during the Democratic convention as part of its attempt to determine whether subversion was involved in the trouble there.

Hayden insisted that the demonstrators had never intended violence or to disrupt the convention but to spotlight what they considered the immorality of the event. All trouble could have been avoided had the City issued permits for the demonstrators to march, he said. He defended the obscenities hurled at police as a justifiable reaction to the clubbing of innocents by police.

For four hours, Hayden, in conventional hair-style and dress gave soft-spoken and apparently cooperative replies to questions about his role at Chicago and his activities in radical politics. Only occasionally did he put his contempt of the Committee into plain words when he spoke offhandedly of "you racists."

HUAC is used to tumultuous hearings, filled with witnesses who refuse to answer questions and with costumed characters who shout and get thrown out.

There was none of that. Only 35 spectators half-filled a small hearing room, outnumbering police by about 2 to 1.

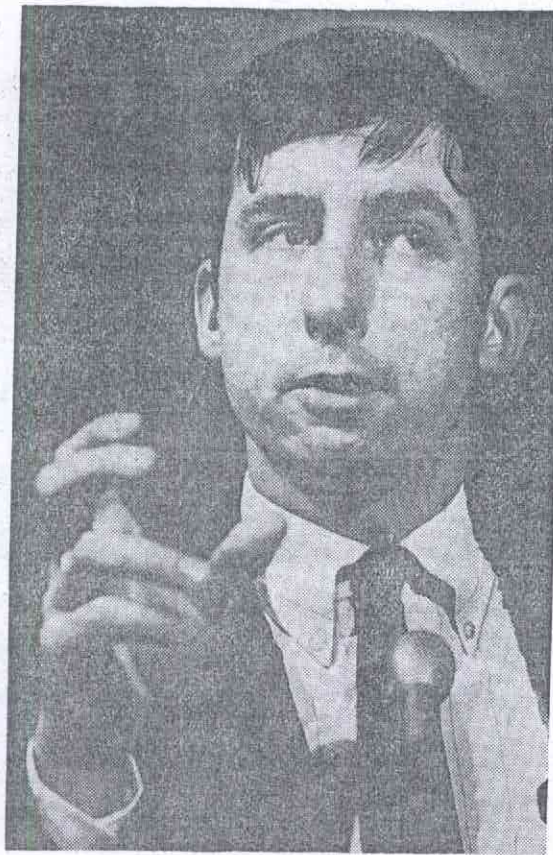
Hayden replied to all questions. When asked if he had

attended meetings in Cuba, Czechoslovakia and other Communist centers, he cheerfully agreed that he had.

He told about two trips to Hanoi, and declared that a

meeting of so-called revolutionaries last January in Cuba was really a gathering of intellectuals "not strong enough to life a gun."

This kind of performance is



By Margaret Thomas—The Washington Post

Militant Tom Hayden talks to newsmen during recess in House Un-American Activities Committee hearing.

a change of pace for HUAC, which in its heyday sought out disciplined Communists who might be passing secrets to the Soviets.

But Hayden is a former head of Students for a Democratic Society, an organization so undisciplined its units often don't meet because they won't give authority to any officers.

To HUAC it was crucial to know whether Hayden attended a demonstration planning meeting in Chicago with Communists.

To Hayden it was wholly irrelevant who was there so long as they wanted to help reshape America into a peaceful, classless place where everyone is free to do his thing. If Communists wanted to come along, fine. They probably couldn't keep pace with the New Left, Hayden said.

To old Communist watchers, revolution is overthrow of the government by force. To Hayden it is developing a strong movement that will attract supporters to stand with it "against landlords, generals and draft boards."

Hayden said he had always been against violence at Chicago because he wanted to attract the largest possible number of demonstrators—including women and children.

Questions asked Hayden about a trip he took to Paris in July to talk to American and North Vietnam peace negotiators suggested that North Vietnam was involved in planning the Chicago demonstrations.

But Hayden said he went to Paris to gather material for an article.