

Four Lives as a Vigilant Foe

By Tom Joyce

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BETHESDA, Md. — Nathan Hale regretted that he had but one life to give for his country. Herbert A. Philbrick is into his fourth, and going strong.

Like Hale, Philbrick was a spy. As readers of his best-selling book, "I Led Three Lives," or viewers of the television series of the same title will recall, Philbrick was for nine years beginning in 1940 simultaneously a New England businessman, a member of a Communist Party cell and an informer for the FBI.

Those three lives ended in the glare of publicity when

Philbrick shed his cover on April 6, 1949, and gave testimony that led to the conviction of 11 top American Communists. Then began life number four: Philbrick the editor, lecturer and vigilant foe of the Communist menace.

Life number four is full for the wiry, 55-year-old Philbrick—and profitable.

With his second wife, Shirley, a 28-year-old former model, Philbrick lectures about twice a week around the country for an average \$750 fee and turns out six editorials a week for his right-wing U.S. Press Association.

It's a grinding pace but

Philbrick is spurred on, he says, by a conviction that the threat of communism is greater than ever.

"In many ways I think the situation is more dangerous today," he says. "Their numbers are smaller, but they are the hard core with skill and experience.

"What makes it so bad is that they are using other elements. They have the lu-

natic fringe running with them — those who are creating the violence. The record is clear. The Communists have reached them."

Philbrick is afraid that after all these years the Communists may yet reach him. He is careful to examine his food in hotels and does not stand too close to the tracks in the subway. "Most of the time I'm too

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to the Communist Menace

busy to worry about it," he says, but he believes the danger is real.

And he is, indeed, a busy man. "I find it amazing that the demand is still there," he says. "But, strangely, it is and I'm finding that I have to cut back a little bit."

The U.S. Press Association mails "canned" editorials to some 1,200 newspapers (mostly weeklies) which

receive the material free of charge. Philbrick, who is president of U.S.P.A. writes most of the editorials. Some, however, are prepared by or for commercial or special-interest clients who pay to have them included in the weekly package.

Philbrick will not disclose his income from this service and from his lecturing. He works at home, a red brick

house in Bethesda near the National Institutes of Health.

The one-time undercover agent bears little resemblance to Richard Carlson, the actor who portrayed him on the television series of the 1950s which is still being rerun. But he is fit and youthful looking. And young people are still a personal concern to him. He is, for

instance, a member of the conservative Young Americans for Freedom advisory board.

Looking back today, Philbrick wouldn't change a thing.

"It's been interesting, and I hope of some service," he says. "I guess if I hadn't stumbled into this thing I would still be in the advertising and public relations field."