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Expelled Red Charges He Was Framed by F.B.I.

By MURRAY ILLSON

A former high-ranking member of the Communist party who was expelled for allegedly serving as an undercover police agent charged yesterday that he had been "framed" by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The charge was made by William Albertson, former member of the party's national committee and its New York State secretary, whose expulsion was disclosed Tuesday in *The Worker*, the party newspaper.

Told of Mr. Albertson's charge, a spokesman at the F.B.I. headquarters in Washington said only, "no comment whatsoever."

The statement in *The Worker* announcing Mr. Albertson's expulsion by the Communist party of New York State did not indicate when the expulsion took place, nor did it identify the police agency that Mr. Albertson allegedly served.

'A Terrible Shock'

Mr. Albertson, who is 54 years old and who has been connected with the Communist cause for 35 years here, in Detroit and in Pittsburgh, was interviewed by telephone at his home here. Speaking reluctantly and in a voice that suggested emotional upset, he said that he first knew of his expulsion a few days before it was announced in *The Worker*. He said that it had come as "a terrible shock" to him.

The statement in *The Worker* had referred to Mr. Albertson as a "stool pigeon," an "informer," a "police agent within the ranks of the party." It accused him of living "a life of duplicity and treachery," of "posing as a dedicated defender of the workers' interests while

in actuality betraying them."

Referring to the announcement in *The Worker*, Mr. Albertson said: "The allegations made in the statement are untrue. I never was, I am not now and I never will be any kind of a police agent."

In answer to questions, Mr. Albertson said that he had "no idea of what motivated the charge" against him. He said that he had "no plans at the moment except to find out what caused the charge and the frameup."

Asked who could have "framed" him, he replied: "I allege that I was framed by the F.B.I."

Questioned further as to why the F.B.I. would want to frame him and why his former associates in the Communist party would lend themselves to a frame-up, Mr. Albertson asserted: "The history of the F.B.I. shows that they will

frame anyone if it suits a particular objective."

He refused to enlarge on that statement, except to say, "I still consider myself a loyal Communist."

Ironically, the *Daily Worker* of July 30, 1953, published a story from Pittsburgh stating that Mr. Albertson, then the executive secretary of the Michigan Communist party, had been cited the day before for contempt of court for refusing to "betray the best traditions of the labor movement by becoming a stool pigeon."

Mr. Albertson, according to *The Daily Worker*, had been asked in a Federal trial in Pittsburgh to give the names of persons present at a Communist party meeting in 1947, when he was secretary of the Pittsburgh party district. The *Daily Worker* story went on to relate:

"Albertson said with deep feeling:

"My wife and I have tried to raise our children in the best traditions of the American labor movement. We have given them a hatred for spies, stool pigeons and scabs. I could not look my children in the face if I violated those traditions."

At the time Mr. Albertson was one of a group of Communist leaders who were being tried under the Smith Act for conspiring to teach and advocate the overthrow of the Government by force and violence. The case eventually was dropped by the Government when the credibility of a key prosecution witness came under doubt.

However, for refusing to tell the court who had attended that Communist party meeting in 1947, Mr. Albertson was cited for contempt and served 60 days in a Pittsburgh jail.