

FBI - II

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1966.

Jersey Camp Called Site of Red Leadership School

By DOUGLAS ROBINSON

A Democratic New Jersey Congressman charged yesterday in Washington that national Communist party leaders had conducted a summer youth leadership school at a camp in Ringwood, N. J., in northern Passaic County.

The lawmaker, Representative Charles S. Joelson, said he had been given his information by J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Joelson quoted Mr. Hoover as having said that students at the school, Camp Midvale, were given instruction last year from top Communist party officials. They were said to have spent the rest of the summer working full time for the party.

Charge Denied

A primary task of the students was said to be recruiting youths for the W. E. B. DuBois Clubs, a campus-oriented group cited as a Communist-front organization by the United States Attorney General last spring.

A spokesman for the F. B. I. in Washington said in a telephone interview that the bureau "stood" on Mr. Joelson's statement and that there would be no elaboration.

At Camp Midvale, a 100-acre preserve on Snake Den Road about five miles southwest of



Rep. Charles S. Joelson

Ringwood, a spokesman for the owners vehemently denied that Communist youths had been trained there.

The spokesman, Georg Schmidt, treasurer of a three-member group running the camp for the Metropolitan Recreation Association, conceded that individual left-wingers could have stayed there.

"We don't want to know where our guests come from—it's none of our business," he said in a heavy German accent. "We have no right to ask people their political beliefs, where they come from or what groups they belong to."

The only persons not wanted at the interracial camp, Mr. Schmidt said, are Fascists. Asked how he would recognize Fascists without questioning them, he said with a laugh: "They'd probably be wearing uniforms."

Mr. Schmidt said that the camp, which has 15 cooking bungalows and a dormitory housing 80, was founded in 1920 by a German group that called itself the Nature Friends.

Names Not Disclosed

In 1952, he said, the Metropolitan Recreation Association took over the ownership. Mr. Schmidt declined to say what the association was or who its members were. He said the group had no office or headquarters in New York.

The camp is run, he said, by himself, Otto Dehn, the president of the camp, and Henrietta Zwilling, the secretary. All three live at the camp during the summer.

Mr. Schmidt said that anyone—even nonmembers—could use the camp grounds, the

large pool and the tennis courts for \$1. Lodging and three meals a day cost \$8.50. Camp Midvale also has 35 miles of hiking trails, he added.

"I was not here last year," Mr. Schmidt said. "I don't know what happened then, although I've heard stories that some Marxist or DuBois Clubs used the camp."

"If they were DuBois members," he added, "they hadn't been declared a Communist-front group then. How can they harass us retroactively?"

Guests Called Quiet

Several neighbors along Snake Den Road said they had no complaints about Camp Midvale. They reported that guests at the camp were quiet and unobtrusive. A few of the homes in the area are owned by Negroes.

In making public the information given him by Mr. Hoover, Representative Joelson quoted the F. B. I. director as having said that the Communist party leader, Gus Hall, had been "extremely pleased" with the accomplishments of the school.

Last night, Arnold Johnson, a spokesman for the Communist party, said that "if they [the camp leaders] denied it, they are more truthful than J. Edgar Hoover ever was."

See also AP A123, filed Misc II - Minutemen, 31 Oct 66.