

House Panel Links Communists to War Protests

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WASHINGTON, May 20—The House Internal Security Committee heard evidence today that members of the Socialist Workers party and the Communist party were among the leaders of the recent antiwar demonstrations here.

The committee chairman, Richard H. Ichord, Democrat of Missouri, contended that both parties were subversive, revolutionary, and intent on the overthrow of the United States Government.

The evidence was based on bank records of the National Peace Action Coalition, which organized the April 24 demonstration, and the Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice, which was involved in the five-day Mayday protest starting May 1.

The bank records were given to the committee by the Public National Bank earlier this week in response to subpoena from the committee.

Jerry Gordon, a coordinator of the Peace Action Coalition, said that the organization planned to file suit against the bank and the House committee for seizing the bank records on the ground that it was an invasion of privacy.

The coalition will hold a press conference tomorrow in an effort to refute Mr. Ichord's charges. Don Gurewitz, a member of the Socialist Workers party, is expected to define the party's political position.

Mr. Ichord and other members of the committee criticized the press on grounds that it did not report the alleged infiltration of the leadership of the demonstrations during coverage of the protests.

Representative John G. Schmitz, Republican of California and a member of the right-wing John Birch Society, charged that several members of Congress had been duped into supporting the demonstrators without knowing their subversive connections.

The names of Senator Vance Hartke, Democrat of Indiana, and Representative John Conyers Jr., Democrat of Michigan, appeared on a list of 70 members of the peace coalition steering committee that was handed out earlier this week.

A spokesman for Senator Hartke said that the peace coalition was the largest collection of organizations working in an

orderly fashion for peace and included many responsible persons among its leaders. He said that Senator Hartke believed that the charges against the coalition were "ludicrous."

An aide to Mr. Conyers said that the Congressman was aware that the coalition was a mixed group and insisted that he had not been duped. He said Mr. Conyers believed that ending the war in Vietnam was going to be accomplished by

A committee investigator, John Stratton, testified under oath that Sydney R. Stapleton and Patricia Grogan were listed in the bank records as the president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, of the peace coalition.

Mr. Stratton said they were the only two authorized to sign checks for the coalition. He identified both as members of the Socialist Workers party by references to them in an official party publication.

The investigator said that about \$121,000 passed through

the coalition's checking account from February to April of this year.

Neither of their names appeared on the coalition's steering committee. A spokesman for the group maintained that they had been authorized only to handle the funds and did not hold policy positions. Representative Schmitz argued in the hearing, however, that those who control the purse strings control an organization.

Neither Mr. Stapleton nor Miss Grogan could be reached for comment.

Mr. Ichord vigorously contended that the Socialist Workers party was not a Socialist party in the vein of the late Socialist leader, Norman Thomas, but was a Trotskyite Communist party. He referred to earlier committee hearings as evidence but offered no documentation today.

Leon Trotsky was a leader of the Bolshevik revolution in the Soviet Union in 1917 but later broke with V. I. Lenin

over both tactics and ideology. Trotsky advocated immediate and violent worldwide revolution, while Lenin proclaimed a gradual revolution. Trotsky was assassinated in Mexico in 1940.

Mr. Stratton further testified that Sydney Peck, one of four officers of the Coalition for Peace and Justice, the Mayday group, was a member of the Communist party. Mr. Stratton said the bank records had shown that Mr. Peck, Bradford Lytle, James Slaughter, and Arthur Bregman had been authorized to sign checks.

The investigator said that Mr. Peck had earlier been identified as a Communist in various Congressional committee reports. Mr. Peck could not be reached for comment.

Mr. Stratton said that he had no evidence that the three others were members of the Communist party. He said about \$84,000 passed through the organization's bank account from February to April.