

Bridges Ruling Fails to Hit Reds On U. S. Payroll

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Ousting Communists Not an Easy Task, Dies Has Learned

By CHESLY MANLEY

Notwithstanding Attorney General Francis Biddle's ruling in the Harry Bridges case that the Communist Party is working to overthrow the United States Government by force and violence, thousands of Communists and Communist fellow travelers continue to enjoy apparent social security on the Federal payroll.

There were predictions in well-informed official quarters yesterday that the overwhelming majority of 4,112 Federal jobholders accused of subversive inclinations and investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation will be exonerated by an Interdepartmental Committee appointed by President Roosevelt to review their cases. This committee, headed by John J. Dempsey, Undersecretary of the Interior, is now preparing a report for submission to Congress by the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

Tough Job to Oust Them

Persistent blasting by Representative Martin Dies (D.), of Texas, chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, has dislodged a few fellow travelers from their Government berths, but Dies has found that getting a Communist off the payroll in most instances literally requires an Act of Congress. Malcolm Cowley was forced to surrender an \$8,000 job at the Office of Facts and Figures when Dies revealed his Communist affiliations. Maurice Parmelee, an exponent of nudism, and C. Hartley Grattan both were driven out of \$5,600 jobs in the Board of Economic Warfare.

Still holding key Government jobs are the following:

1. Fowler V. Harper, Deputy Commissioner of Paul V. McNutt's new Manpower Mobilization Commission, at \$8,000 a year. Harper, a professor of law at Indiana University, is a member of the American Lawyers' Guild, which was pronounced too communistic for such radicals as Judge Ferdinand Pecora and Assistant Secretary of State Adolph A. Berle jr.

Urged No Discrimination

When they resigned, in March 1941, during the period of the Hitler-Stalin alliance, Harper signed a petition to President Roosevelt urging that there be no discrimination against the Communist party. Later, he presided at a meeting of the left wing Tuesday Evening Club in Indianapolis at which Theodore Dreiser asserted that Soviet Russia has the only real "democracy."

Harper, who is 44 years old, played soldier in peacetime, becoming a reserve captain in the Judge Advocate General's Department. Although he served for a time as chairman of the joint Army and Navy Committee on Welfare and Recreation, he has succeeded thus far in avoiding active duty on a captain's pay.

Heads Rent Division

2. Karl Borders, director of the Rent Division of the Office of Price Administration, at \$6,500. Borders was executive secretary of the Chicago chapter of the Revolutionary League for Industrial Democracy, now defunct. He was known to the Red squad of the Chicago police department for many years as a radical agitator. According to the OPA, however, Borders has been investigated by the FBI and exonerated by the Civil Service Commission.

3. Tom Tippet, assistant chief of the OPA's rent division at \$5,600. Tippet was a member of the National Executive Committee of the Conference for Progressive Action, which stated its purpose as follows: "It aims to inspire the workers to take control of industry and Government, abolish the present capitalist system and build a workers' republic, and an economic system operated for the benefit of the masses and not the few." According to the OPA, Tippet also has been investigated by the FBI and exonerated by the Civil Service Commission.

OPA Aide at \$7,500

4. Robert A. Brady, head consultant of the OPA at \$7,500. As a result of charges made nine months ago by Representative Dies, Brady's discharge was recommended by the Civil Service Commission and he has resigned as of July 15, when he will resume his duties as a professor of economics at the University of California. His wife, Mildred Edie Brady, who was on the OPA payroll at \$5,600 a year as principal specialist in consumer education, resigned last January while under investigation.

5. Harold Loeb, senior business specialist of the OPA at \$4,600. Loeb's qualifications as a business specialist, according to Representative Dies, include the writing of "several unsuccessful novels, which veered somewhat to the pornographic, and several books on technocracy, which veered emphatically to the crackpot."

Associate of Tippet

6. E. J. "Jack" Lever, principal field representative of the Labor Division of the War Production Board at \$5,600. Lever was associated with Tippet on the national executive committee of the revolutionary Conference for Progressive Action.

7. Gardner Jackson, special as-

sistant to Undersecretary of Agriculture Paul Appleby. Jackson and half a dozen other proteges of Prof. Rexford Guy Tugwell were "purged" from the Department of Agriculture in the early days of the New Deal, but he is back in a far more influential position than he had before. According to Representative Dies, he has "one of the longest records of activity in Communist organizations of any man in this country." Jackson was a principal in a plot to smear Representative Dies through the use of forged letters a few years ago.

Says He Has Crackpots

Dies has charged that Leon Henderson's OPA, which exercises a virtual economic dictatorship through its price-control and rationing powers, is loaded with Communists, fellow travelers, technocrats, crackpots and assorted nuts. Nine months ago, on September 6, 1941, Dies wrote to President Roosevelt, reminding him that Henderson had "been connected with several of the front organizations or transmission belts of the Communist party" and charging that the OPA was staffed with officials whose views were "completely at variance with any concept of Americanism."

Dies charged that at least 50 officials and employes of the OPA had Communist Front affiliations and submitted the records of Brady, Mrs. Brady, Tippet, and Dewey H. Palmer, the latter an OPA consultant at \$20 per diem. Dies sent to the President a photostatic copy of a letter in which Palmer's Communist sympathies were expressed in his own handwriting. Inquiry at the OPA disclosed that Palmer is no longer there, but personnel officials said they understood he had gone to some other Government agency.

Quotes Brady Book

In his letter to the President, Dies quoted extensively from one of Brady's books, which was published in 1937 by Victor Gollancz, Ltd., of London, a Communist publishing house, and distributed by the Left Book Club of England. In this book, titled "The Spirit and Structure of German Fascism," Brady wrote:

"Knowledge of the facts and a little reflection will show that the issue does not turn on 'Fascism' per se, but on that form of capitalism of which it is no more than the politically conscious phase.

"For better or worse, the deeper issue now being squarely faced is whether capitalism as a coercive political and economic system should be allowed any longer to survive... as all parties realize, the end result will be either the triumph of reaction and a new lease on life for capitalism, or else a victory for socialism and the extermination of the rich and powerful of bank, factory, bivouac and cloister."

Head Consultant of OPA

The man who expressed these revolutionary sentiments has been permitted to remain on the pay roll as head consultant of the OPA during the entire formative period of its program of war time economic dictatorship. When the Civil Service Commission recommended his dismissal in January, he demanded and was given an

opportunity for a rehearing, the result of which has not been announced.

Loeb, the OPA's senior business specialist, was associated with Administrator Henderson on the executive committee for Technocracy, described by Dies on the floor of the House last January 15 as "one of the craziest economic propositions that was ever hatched in a crackpot's brain."

Cites News Report

When Henderson denied that he had ever been associated with the Technocrats, Dies produced a front page story from the New York Times of January 24, 1933, which said: "The breakup of the Technocrats was accomplished by the resignation of four of the eight members of the committee on Technocracy, including Prof. Walter Rautenstrauch, Leon Henderson, housing expert of the Russell Sage Foundation; Ferdinand L. Ackerman, architect, and Bassett Jones, inventor, industrial engineer and counsel."

Dies called the attention of the House to a book written by Loeb, titled "Life in a Technocracy," which proposed the complete abolition of money and the substitution of certificates of energy called "ergs." Each person would receive 20,000 ergs at the beginning of each year; everybody would work 16 hours a week.

Edited by Lasser

The editor of the Journal of Technocracy was David Lasser, whose removal from the pay roll of the WPA required an act of Congress. Lasser's practical experience for a career as a New Deal economist also included the presidency of the Interplanetary Travel Association, which was promoting a rocket clipper service to Mars and possibly other ports of call in the solar system.

The jobholders mentioned above are only a few of the hundreds identified as Communists or Fellow Travelers by the Dies Committee. More than a year ago Congress overcame Administration opposition to appropriate \$100,000 for an investigation of subversive influences in the Government departments and agencies by the FBI.

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Got 1,122 Names

Attorney General Biddle asked Chairman Dies for the names of members of subversive organizations in the possession of his committee and Dies sent him a list of 1,122 names in October 1941. Other complaints referred to the FBI by departments, agencies and individuals raised the total to 4,112.

The Administration, however, did not trust the FBI with authority to make recommendations for the discharge of suspects. In each case the FBI makes an investigation and submits a report on the facts without recommendation. On April 22 Mr. Roosevelt appointed the Dempsey committee to review the FBI reports and make recommendations. Dempsey, a former Representative from New Mexico, was a member of the Dies Committee, on which he distinguished himself as an apologist for the Administration. His appointment as chairman of the reviewing committee consequently produced a widespread belief that a whitewash was contemplated.