

Communists' 'Rules' for Revolt Appear to Be a Durable Fraud

NY TIMES By DONALD JANSON 10 JUL 70

Among a spate of broadsides leaflets and ultraconservative books distributed at the New England Rally for God, Family and Country, held recently in Boston, was a stack of flyers labeled Communist "rules for revolution."

The "rules" call for corrupting the young by stressing sex to the exclusion of moral virtues, fomenting disorder and dissatisfaction with government, legislating gun control and seizing power.

"Friend, do you recognize any of these things going on in our world?" the Committee for American Broadcasting asks after listing the "rules." The committee is a project of Warren B. Appleton, a John Birch Society leader in Brockton, Mass.

The same list has been reproduced in right-wing publications, small-town newspaper advertisements and gun lobby magazines for a quarter of a century. Group Research, a Washington organization, reports a spurt in recent months.

The "rules" appear to be one of the more durable frauds

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popular among far right and anti-Communist organizations, similar in purpose to misquotations of Lenin, Stalin and Khrushchev by ultraconservatives and of Hitler by the radical left.

The Port Washington (L.I.) News carried a full-page ad last month reprinting the "rules" and asking: "How many of these rules are being carried out in this nation today? Or is it just a coincidence?"

Frequently the ads are printed without imprimatur. The ad in the Port Washington paper says only that it was "placed by a group of loyal Americans."

Each reproduction of the "rules" says they were captured from Communists by allied officers in May, 1919, in Dusseldorf, Germany.

Never are names or addresses given. The National Archives, the Library of Congress and the libraries of the nation's universities have no copy or trace of the "document."

'Completely Spurious'

Senator Lee Metcalf, Democrat of Montana, said in an interview that exhaustive research had proved the "rules for revolution" to be "completely spurious."

"The extreme right wing in America also follows rules," he said earlier in placing his findings in The Congressional Record, "and one of these rules is to make maximum use of false, misleading and fear-inspiring quotations."

He checked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Library of Congress and the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and none could authenticate the "rules."

Senator James O. Eastland, Democrat, of Mississippi, the subcommittee chairman, said F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover testified that no source could be found for the "document" and "therefore we can logically speculate that the document is spurious."

Nevertheless, Congressmen continue to receive copies of the "rules" from alarmed constituents and continue to insert them in The Congressional Record as if they had become aware of them for the first time.

Source in Doubt

Frequently, American Legion

posts, local Birch Society affiliates and others, in reproducing the "rules," simply credit the last publication where they saw it as their source.

The "loyal Americans" who advertised in the Port Washington News, for example, called it a reprint from the Waterville (N.Y.) Advance. There is no Waterville (N.Y.) Advance. They apparently meant the Waterville (Minn.) Advance, which printed the "rules" in 1968 with the comment that it did not "see how any thinking person can truthfully say that the Communists do not have any part in the chaos that is upsetting our nation."

The earliest publication of the "rules" turned up in a search was in The New World News of February, 1946. Many who reproduce the "rules" quote the defunct biweekly newsletter of Moral Re-Armament Inc., as their source.

Morris Kominsky, in a book called "The Hoaxers," to be published soon by Branden Press of Boston, quotes H. Mead Twitchell Jr., until recently an employe of the now closed Los Angeles office of Moral Re-Armament, as saying that the "rules" appeared in German "in a German paper during the twenties and thirties, was translated into English in Britain [and] I believe it was first used in the United States in Rising Tide, a magazine published about 1937, but I cannot find a copy to check this and do not know the name of the German newspaper."

The only magazine called Rising Tide that circulated in the United States, according to a check by librarians, was a periodical for boys and girls of the Presbyterian Church of England, published from 1880 to 1937.

John H. George, political science teacher at Central State College in Edmund, Okla., who has made a study of misquotations by extremists, called the "rules" a forgery.

Merle Fainsod of Harvard, specialist in political science and government of Eastern Europe, said he had never encountered such a document.

Role of Prosecutor

Reproduction of the "rules" accelerated after they were endorsed in 1954 as authentic by George A. Brautigam, Florida State Attorney for Dade County (Miami).

Since then, numerous ultraconservative publications have reproduced the "rules" with the Brautigam statement and his signature appended. The Rev. Billy James Hargis devoted the cover of Christian Crusade to this combination a decade later.

The Brautigam statement said "the above rules for revolution were secured by the state attorney's office from a known member of the Communist party, who acknowledged it to be still a part of the Communist program for overthrowing our government."

Mr. Brautigam died in 1957. His successor, Richard E. Gerstein, said in a telephone interview that people have been asking him ever since, more frequently in the last year or two, what basis Mr. Brautigam had for the statement.

Mr. Gerstein said he had been



CHRISTIAN CRUSADE

GILLY JAMES HARRIS, Publisher

May, 1950

COMMUNIST "BLUEPRINT FOR WORLD CONQUEST"

Communist Rules For Revolution

(Captured in Düsseldorf, May 1919 by the Allied Forces)

- A. Corrupt the young, get them away from religion. Get them interested in sex. Make them superficial. Destroy their ruggedness.
- B. Get control of all means of publicity and thereby:
 1. Get people's minds off their government by focusing their attention on athletics, sex, books and plays and other frivolities.
 2. Divide the people into hostile groups by constantly harping on controversial matters of no importance.
 3. Destroy the people's faith in their national leaders by holding the latter up to contempt, ridicule and obloquy.
 4. Always promote mass democracy. But raise power on foot and as nobility as possible.
 5. By encouraging government extravagance, destroy its credit, produce loss of inflation with rising prices and general discontent.
 6. Foment unnecessary strikes in vital industries, encourage civil disorders and lower a tolerant and soft attitude on the part of government toward such disorders.
- C. Cause the registration of all firearms on some pretext, with a view to confiscating them and leaving the population helpless.

NOTE: The above "Rules for Revolution" were secured by the State Attorney's Office from a known member of the Communist Party, who acknowledged it to be still a part of the Communist program for overthrowing our Government.

George A. Brubaker

State Attorney
State of Florida

DISPUTED 'RULES': Paper distributed at rally in Boston lists "Communist rules for revolution" that, according to Senator Lee Metcalf, Democrat of Montana, are spurious.

able to find none. He noted that his predecessor made the statement during the course of a Brautigam investigation of several persons indicated on charges of contempt for invoking the Fifth Amendment and remaining silent when questioned.

Miami newspapers later branded the investigation a "witch-hunt," Mr. Gerstein said. None of those indicated ever went to jail.

A Colorful Introduction

A copy of the "rules for revolution" entered in The Congressional Record by Senator Metcalf has a colorful introduction, perhaps intended to lend verisimilitude:

"On a dark night in May, 1919, two lorries rumbled across a bridge and on into the town of Dusseldorf.

"Among the dozen rowdy, singing Tommies apparently headed for a gay evening were two representatives of the allied military intelligence.

"These men had traced a wave of indiscipline, mutiny, and murder among the troops to the local headquarters of a revolutionary organization established in the town.

"Pretending to be drunk,

they brushed by the sentries and arrested the ringleaders—a group of 13 men and women seated at a long table.

"In the course of the raid the Allied officers emptied the contents of the safe.

"One of the documents found in it contained a specific outline of 'rules for bringing about a revolution.'

"It is reprinted here to show the strategy of materialistic revolution, and how personal attitudes and habits of living affect the affairs of nations."

The "rules" follow, once again with credit to The New World News.

The Metcalf selection was from Western Voice Publishers of Englewood, Colo., which also has a long list of anti-Catholic, anti-Semitic and racist publications.

Those who have listed the "rules" in The Congressional Record this year include Representatives John J. Duncan of Tennessee, Joe Skubitz of Kansas and Louis C. Wyman of New Hampshire.

'To Protect Our Country'

Mr. Duncan commented, in doing so, that "I became alarmed as I reviewed these and realized how effective they are right now in this great country of ours."

"We see the results taking place in our society," he said, "and it is our duty to warn our constituency and to protect our country."

Police stations in the Boston area have tacked up on bulletin boards flyers bearing the "rules." The "document" has been widely distributed by the Network of Patriotic Letter Writers, Pasadena, Calif., and the Association to Preserve Our Right to Keep and Bear Arms, Medford, Ore.

Last year American Opinion, the Birch Society magazine, linked the country's sexual revolution to the "rules." This summer Arthur C. Pruden of Flora, Miss., like hundreds of others, typed them out and sent them to his Congressman, noting that he considered them "food for thought."

Equally popular in right-wing circles, according to Mr. George of Central State College in Oklahoma, are more than a dozen misquotations of Communist leaders.

He said purveyors of fear

frequently quote Nikita S. Khrushchev's remark while in the United States in 1959 that "we will bury you," but never add that he meant economically. Another statement attributed to Mr. Khrushchev in right-wing speeches and publications, he noted, says: "We cannot expect the Americans to jump from capitalism to Communism, but we can assist their elected leaders in giving Americans small doses of socialism until they suddenly awake to find they have Communism."

Attributed to Friend

This one, Mr. George said, was created in 1959 by a friend of his and leaked to the radical right to see whether it would be used without checking.

He said its use among right-

wing pamphlet and book writers continues to be as great as ever despite futile searches by the F.B.I., C.I.A. and Library of Congress to find any source for it.

Even more popular among ultraconservatives is one attributed to Lenin.

"First we will take Eastern Europe," it goes, "next the masses of Asia, then we will circle that last bastion of capitalism, the United States of America. We shall not have to attack it; it will fall like an overripe fruit into our hands."

Mr. George said a search by scholars at Stanford University of Lenin's complete works in Russian produced no such quotation, and that a Library of Congress search similarly found nothing resembling it. Louis

Budenz, a former Communist, said in 1959 that it was typical of unfounded quotations "floating around in ill-informed anti-Communist circles."

Speakers used it again at the Birch-dominated Fourth of July weekend rally here. Moral Re-Armament quoted it in its pamphlet "Ideology and Co-existence."

A Variety of Dates

Mr. George said right-wing writers have put a variety of dates on the quotation — including 1932, which was eight years after Lenin's death.

The political scientist said his research had turned up 23 "fake quotes" enjoying currency on the far right.

A quotation stressed at the weekend rally in a speech by the Rev. William S. McBirnie of the Voice of Americanism in Glendale, Calif., and printed earlier in the year in American Opinion, the Birch magazine, quotes Lenin as saying in 1923:

"We must secure the goodwill of teachers and professors in schools and universities, of liberal ministers of religion and of the pacifists and reformers of the world in order to create a mental barrage in the minds of capitalist youth which shall forever bar them from participating in a carnal conflict with the Communist order."

Mr. George said the Library of Congress could find no such statement in the works of Lenin.

Left-Wing Example

More recently the left wing has been employing apparently fabricated quotations. One attributed to Hitler in 1932 says:

"The streets of our country are in turmoil. The universities are filled with students rebelling and rioting. Communists are seeking to destroy our country. Russia is threatening us with her might. The republic is in danger. We need law and order."

The quotation has been employed for more than a year, especially by underground newspapers. In June, 1969, it was used in a letter to the editor of The New York Times from a writer at the University of California in Berkeley, attributing it to Hitler. As recently as last month it was used by a student speaker at the commencement of Mills College in Oakland, Calif.

A check in compilations of Hitler quotations and speeches produced nothing similar.