

## THE COMMUNISTS ARE AFTER OUR MINDS

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*Above is 2nd Lt. Spenser Rapone at his 2016 graduation from West Point. Rapone is a devoted communist who was discharged from the Army two years later.*

**A new Federal law strips the Communist Party of all legal rights and privileges. This statute, designed to aid in law enforcement, does not mean that any of us can afford to relax vigilance against the conspiracy to influence our thinking. The Commies are still pursuing the devious and dangerous methods which Mr. Hoover describes in this illuminating article.**

—*The Editor*

**W**HILE most Americans in recent months have been concerned over the advance of Communism on an international scale, not all of us understand the grim fact that Communists are still actively penetrating our national life. While there are less than 25,000 Communist Party members in the United States, they wield an influence far greater than their numbers suggest. From coast to coast, hard-core Reds continue to use every available technique, ruse, and artifice to capture the minds and control the behavior of loyal Americans, and, in a lamentable number of cases, they are successful in doing so.

Never a day passes that I do not receive reliable reports on Communist activities in many different parts of the nation. Almost no field of our society is immune to them. In the ranks of the concealed Communists today are labor leaders, educators, publicists, doctors, lawyers, businessmen, and even clergymen.

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Commie Bebop @punkproletarian · Sep 24  
#VeteransForKaepernick



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(image from Twitter)

To secure evidence that establishes the allegiance of those dedicated to the alien ways of world Communism calls for painstaking and arduous work. The secret Communist presents a special problem because he seeks to avoid provable law violations. But every American should wake up to the fact that the Reds in our midst are still very active, indeed, and are exerting power and influence in almost every field of thought.

Delegates, for example, from all over the country started arriving at a certain city for a large labor convention. They checked in at hotels, greeted old friends, and discussed the forthcoming convention business. Late in the day a taxicab drew up at a hotel and a man jumped out. He registered quickly and, without looking to right or left, went straight to his room.

That man was a high official of the Communist Party and he, too, had come to “attend” the convention. He did not register as a delegate or even as a visitor, and he did not sit in on any of the actual meetings. In fact, he was so afraid of being recognized that he never left his hotel room. Yet, as much as any delegate present he was kept aware of what was going on, and he played an important part in promoting Communist Party interests at the convention.

A few minutes after he had arrived at the hotel, we have learned, one of the top officials of the union, who was a concealed Communist, entered his room and talked with him. The Party official, who was obviously the “boss,” gave the union man his instructions.

“Here’s a resolution the convention should adopt,” he said, and proceeded to dictate word for word a resolution which the union official was to present the next day.

“I don’t like the order in which resolutions are to be introduced,” the Party bigwig went *(Continued on page 85)*



*A 2019 Gallup poll revealed that 4 in ten embrace some form of socialism*

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on. "Try to get this one acted on first. That will smooth the way for the others."

The visitor nodded his head obediently. "I think I can get them switched around," he said.

The Party official then took up other matters with the union official. He told him to find out if financial help could be given to certain pro-Communist groups from union funds. He ordered him to exert pressure to encourage a conference strongly favored by the Party. He criticized him sharply for allowing an individual whom the Party had characterized as a "Red baiter" to be favorably mentioned at union sessions.

When the union official went to the convention floor the next day, he did just what he had been told to do. But none of his fellow delegates, except a few other concealed Communists, suspected he was not what he appeared to be—a legitimate labor leader. The newspapers reported the decisions of the convention, and neither the public nor the vast majority of the union's members ever realized that several of the decisions had come straight from a top leader of the Communist Party.

That case is one of many in which concealed Communists have exerted influence over labor groups. Since World War II, when the Party made sizable inroads into American labor, patriotic union leaders have done a magnificent job of cleaning them out of many unions. But the Reds are still inflexibly determined to use the labor movement, and are continually trying to bore within both left-wing and right-wing unions.

**Y**OU may wonder how, after all the publicity their methods have received, the Communists are still able to penetrate labor organizations and bend some of them to their will. The answer lies in the fact that most Party members today are tireless workers, have been trained in techniques of subterfuge and infiltration, and are willing to wait years, if need be, to achieve their aims.

In one large city with an industry which is essential to national defense, the Party arranged for ten concealed members to "colonize" key plants. The Reds, who are operating with such extreme caution that often their identity is not known even to one another, have been instructed to appear "just like other guys" on the job and not to display any pro-Communist leanings. Instead, they are under orders to promote personal friendships with fellow workers—including the most "reactionary"—and to participate actively in all union affairs, never shirking from the most lowly or onerous union chores.

Within two or three years, the Party leadership figures, these colonists will have won groups of non-Communist friends in various departments of the industry—friends whom they can influence—and will have attained at least minor union positions. Then their activities will be "integrated" by the Party higher-ups in a bold move to seize control of the union or an important section of it. Experience has shown many times that a comparatively small number of determined Reds can dominate a large labor organization, and that is what the comrades hope to accomplish here.

Similar colonization we know is being done by concealed Communists in several other large industries where surface appearances might indicate there is no subversive activity.

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**I**N ONE city, Party members were recently instructed to give up all leftist activities and affiliations which might place them under suspicion and to join a right-wing labor group. They have even been coached by Party experts on how to answer embarrassing questions which might be put to them by authorities.

In another city, Communists have been ordered to resign from well-paid jobs in one line of work and to take poorly-paid jobs as beginners in another line, because the Party wishes to penetrate the union representing that trade. Being faithful Party members, these Communists have taken their cut in income without a whimper.

In still another city, Party leaders decided recently that too many of their members were concentrated in one industry. They have provided a number of them with aliases and new Social Security cards, and have placed them in jobs in several other industries in other localities, where they will have larger opportunities to spread Red doctrines and to commit sabotage in the event of war.

These examples give only an inkling of the broad activities of Communists in the labor field. They are by no means as open in their manipulations as they were a decade ago, but there is hardly a large labor group anywhere which is entirely free of them.

In their unceasing efforts to shape the thinking and attitudes of what they call the "masses," the Reds have always devoted much attention to idea-molding fields, such as education, the press, radio, and television. Here, too, they are still dangerously active.

There can be no doubt that the great majority of American teachers are loyal citizens, yet a witness who formerly held a high position in the Communist Party recently testified that the Party has members at work in every kind of educational institution, from nursery schools to the universities.

For example, Communist teachers or fellow travelers are subtly persuading children aged 2 to 5 not to believe in religion, and are poisoning their minds with contempt or dislike for other "capitalistic institutions." In one of many colleges where Communists are known to have taught, there was a teacher who tried to get over to his students the idea that "Communism is the only hope of Mexico." At one of our great universities a renowned scientist recently compared Christianity unfavorably to Marxism, and stated that "Marxism has that optimism which alone can build a new world."

Being good tacticians, the Communists realize that one concealed Party member in education may be worth a dozen in less strategic fields, and some of their more successful propagandists in this area have influenced, and are influencing, the ideas of thousands of impressionable young people.

There is the case, for instance, of an ex-professor who has addressed college students all over the country. Billed as an "expert" on Russia, and reputed to have once served as an adviser to the Russian Government, the professor is introduced to students as an unprejudiced specialist on international affairs who can give them a "clear" and "unbiased" picture of conditions in that country.

When the professor starts lecturing, however, everything that he says turns

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out to be an apology for the Soviet Union. The Soviets are misunderstood in the United States, he says. Russia is a peace-loving nation with no aggressive intentions. This country, not Russia, is the one which is wrong. . . . All typical Communist propaganda!

Most students who have heard this "specialist," and the college officials who have permitted him to lecture at their institutions, think he is an honest liberal. But in the FBI we know better. We have proof that he is a concealed Communist and we know that he is under direct orders of the Communist Party, USA, which follows the Moscow line. This scholarly individual's activities have been somewhat curtailed of late, but others like him are still assailing the minds of youth with Red lies.

**I**N THE publishing field, concealed Communists are not so numerous as they were a few years ago, but in some firms they still exert great influence over the printed word.

An editor, who until recently held a high editorial post in a respectable, non-Communist publishing house, provides a good illustration of this type of Red operator. An intelligent and highly educated individual, he had a wide range of contacts with writers, and played an important part in deciding what kind of reading matter his company would provide for the public. He used his strategic position to promote the Communist viewpoint.

This editor was clever enough not to reveal his Red connections or to publish the work of known Communist writers. But he featured the writings of Communist sympathizers and fellow travelers, and encouraged non-Communist authors to prepare articles favorable to Party policies. At the same time, in reviewing manuscripts, he often suggested that pro-Communist material be enlarged upon, but asked that passages unfavorable to the Party line be eliminated or toned down. His work for the Red cause was thus both offensive and defensive. He avoided any open violation of the law, but it is not possible to even speculate on the thousands of readers who were deceived or misinformed by this one Red editor.

Other concealed Communists are operating in a number of other publishing concerns, large and small, and still other comrades play a part in deciding what goes on the airwaves.

To cite just one case, all the programs broadcast by a big television station in a Southern city are under the direction of a man with a record of Communist activities stretching back for more than ten years. A former labor agitator in the North, and a leader in Red-front organizations and political campaigns, this individual gave up his open Party affiliations when he moved South and went to work for the television station.

To most of his fellow townsmen he appears to be a patriotic citizen. But the front he puts up is a sham. He still has secret ties with the Party, and a small Communist club comprised of local professional people meets regularly in his home. He is too cagey to put any outright Red propaganda on the air, but, like the Red editor I mentioned, he is in a position where, by the mere choice of the material he uses, and the emphasis or lack of emphasis he places on it, he can subtly shape attitudes in a large audience.

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Concealed Communists in the medical and legal professions are also being used by the Party in its efforts to capture the mass mind. In a number of communities, Red doctors regularly dish out Communist propaganda to their patients while treating their aches and pains, and they lend the prestige of their names to Red causes. Right now, some Red doctors also are providing needed medical care for Communists hiding from the law, and performing facial surgery to alter their appearance. Red lawyers, in addition to giving legal advice to comrades in trouble, are working in a number of communities to influence the opinions of public officials, including senators, representatives, governors, and mayors.

Even the clergy, as I have said, are not without their undercover Reds. The Communists realize that religion is our strongest bulwark against the encroachment of Marxist doctrines, and in some instances are trying to attack Christian faith at its wellsprings by influencing or winning over ordained ministers as recruits to aid the Party.

One concealed Communist minister, who we know is in constant contact with high-ranking Party leaders, preaches Red-slanted sermons to large congregations in an Eastern city, consistently praises Communist programs in speeches and articles which he writes, and serves as a mouthpiece for Red fronts.

Another Red-fronting minister, on the West Coast, is making a play for the minds of young people by holding "Youth Festivals" at his church and leading discussions which shed a favorable light on Communism. Still another pulpit Red apologist recently told an audience: "We must not make a holy war against Russia. . . . The Soviets are not opposed to freedom in Europe or anywhere else. . . . It is only Fascism to which they are opposed."

**O**F ALL the mass techniques which the Reds are using to influence the minds of Americans, the Communist fronts are the most effective. A Communist front is any organization or movement controlled by the Party. It may be local, state-wide, or national in character; may be large or small; and may exist for years or only for a few days. But in every case the objective of the front organizers is to surround themselves with respectable non-Communists and use them to advance a Party program or spread Red propaganda.

In a Midwestern state, for example, Party headquarters recently decided to create a new front organization. It would be called the—Committee for Peace. The first step was to contact a doctor who, though known as a non-Communist, was willing to co-operate with Communists. He was asked to supply a list of "conservative people" who might be asked to serve as sponsors.

Interestingly, of the group of sponsors whom the doctor proposed, the Party rejected one. "This person," an official said, "can't be used." That was because he had once publicly attacked the Communists, and the Party officials felt he couldn't be trusted. They feared he might see through the whole sham and denounce the front, which would be what the Reds described as a "disaster."

But the other proposed sponsors met with the Party's approval, and intense activity got under way. Telephones jingled, doorbells rang, handbills were distributed, announcements were sent to the press, and a mass meeting was ar-

**Reds In Pursuit of Our Minds** ranged by the "committee." At the meeting, pro-Communist speakers made eloquent appeals for peace and disarmament, and implied, of course, that Americans were very foolish to be fearful of peace-loving Russia. The audience, composed mostly of non-Communists, was duly impressed, and so, no doubt, were many people who read accounts of the meeting in the local newspapers. Thus a handful of Party connivers were able to achieve a propaganda triumph by utilizing respectable citizens as their dupes.

Fronts like that are being used constantly in the name of all kinds of apparently worthy causes—to protect civil rights, to protest the high cost of living, to combat racial discrimination, to guard the rights of the foreign-born, and to advocate "true democracy." But, back of the scenes, Party members invariably pull the strings and manipulate the front to serve the Party's purposes.

In some instances they are so successful in doing so that they stir up nationwide agitation. A striking illustration of this was the "Save the Rosenbergs" campaign of 1953. The plot for this front was hatched high in the Communist Party, not with any hope or even desire of saving from execution Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, convicted atomic spies, but to serve five other Party aims:

- (1) To discredit the American system of justice generally;
- (2) To discredit the FBI, which had apprehended the Rosenbergs;
- (3) To add fuel to the world-wide "Hate America" program which the Party has been fostering since 1945;
- (4) To make it appear that the Rosenbergs were victims of widespread anti-Semitism in the United States, and thus obscure increasing manifestations of anti-Semitism in Russia and her satellite states; and
- (5) To divert attention from the fact that the spies had worked hand in glove with diplomatic representatives of the Soviet Union.

The Communists went all out to achieve these objectives, and the results provided a tribute to their diabolical skill as organizers. By appealing to non-Communist humanitarian and religious leaders in the name of "mercy" and "justice," they prevailed upon literally hundreds of them to join their "crusade," received a vast amount of front-page publicity all over the world, and even induced 6,000 persons—comparatively few of whom were Party members—to go to Washington and picket the White House.

They failed to save the lives of the two traitors, as they knew they probably would from the start, but they succeeded in making them appear as martyrs to thousands of good people, and won an impressive propaganda victory.

**H**ow can a corps of less than 25,000 Communists exert so much power and influence?

One reason lies in the fact that they are assisted by a host of sympathizers and fellow travelers. It has long been their boast that for every Party member they control at least 10 other persons who are ready, able, and willing to do the Party's work. That this ratio still holds true is indicated by the readership of Red periodicals. While the circulation of the Party's two official newspapers, *The Daily Worker* and *The Worker* (published Sundays), has dropped to 10,443

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and 28,822, respectively, total daily circulation of all American Communist organs, in both the English-language and the foreign-language fields, comes to approximately 250,000—just 10 times the Party's membership. And you can be sure that most people who read these Red periodicals regularly have strong Party sympathies, if they are not actual Party members.

Another reason for the effectiveness of the Communists is that they are well most of them today are dyed-in-the-wool—the edicts of the Party are supreme law. The Party member will lie, commit crime, or even break up his family if the Party orders him to.

Not long ago a Communist leader who the Party thought had fallen under suspicion of the FBI, was ordered to drop completely out of sight. He did so, not even telling his wife and children that he was leaving them, and emerged a few weeks later in another city with a new name and background which had been provided for him. He lived there with a woman Communist who, in turn, deserted her husband and children, on the Party's orders, to become his paramour. The fact that two homes have been wrecked to serve Party objectives means less than nothing to the ruthless individuals who direct its policies.

In the Communists' underground apparatus, which they have always had, but which was greatly expanded beginning in 1945, all kinds of skulduggery like that are going on constantly, and some of the devices they use would do credit to a lurid mystery thriller. Party members who are wanted by the FBI—or think they are—almost never appear in public in the daytime. Club meetings are held at 2 or 3 A.M., when streets are deserted and it is comparatively easy to avoid surveillance.

Certain comrades provide hideouts for others who have gone deep underground or into the "deep freeze," as they put it. Other Reds have become specialists in providing phony birth certificates, Social Security cards, and union credentials.

Instead of using the mails or making long-distance telephone calls, the Party today relies regularly upon couriers to carry important messages from city to city. These couriers always have some legitimate excuse for traveling. They are frequently spied upon by other Communists, as are all Reds who perform important missions or hold important Party positions. Nobody in the Communist Party today completely trusts anybody else.

Because of the many security measures and subterfuges which the Communists employ, it is not easy for the FBI to keep track of all their activities. It is obviously impossible for our 6,400 Agents to watch 25,000 of them every hour of every day, in addition to our other staggering duties. On the other hand, the security restrictions the Communists have imposed upon themselves have hampered their effectiveness in a number of ways. By going underground, the Reds have become more dangerous in some respects but less so in others.

What we need to do most about the concealed Communists is to be alert to the threat which they represent and aware of their undercover tactics. It is not necessary for anyone to become unduly suspicious of his neighbors. On the other hand, great caution should be exercised by anyone who thinks he has



**Reds In Pursuit of Our Minds** detected a concealed Communist. False accusations and careless insinuations can do more to destroy our way of life than to preserve it. Anyone who obtains evidence of what he believes to be subversive behavior on the part of another person should not jump to conclusions, but should at once turn over his evidence to the FBI.

We must all realize that the Red conspirators in our midst still constitute a very grave menace. They continue to wage a relentless campaign to pervert our thinking and undermine our freedoms. Their principal weapons are deceit, stealth, sham, and trickery. To defeat them, we must recognize them as diabolically skillful enemies, understand their methods, and be eternally vigilant.



*J. Edgar Hoover  
was the Director of  
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1924 - 1972*