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A REPORT TO THE NATION

By

HONORABLE HERBERT BROWNELL, JR.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

On

"THE FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNISM"

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9 P.M.

On Monday night the President told you about some of the concerns that today confront the people of our country. He spoke of the strength of this nation -- its military, economic and intellectual strength. But more than that -- he emphasized our strength based on our devotion to America and our dedication to the spiritual foundation of our nation. With this background the President urged us not to be blindly apprehensive, but to look at any dangers that we face realistically and without hysteria in the great tradition of our nation.

The President pointed out that underlying all else is the threat imposed upon us by aggressive Communism -- the atheistic doctrine that believes in statism as opposed to our concept of the dignity of man.

One of the problems which flows from this threat is Communist infiltration here at home. Tonight I want to talk with you about this problem and to tell you what this nation is doing about it.

A few weeks ago in Detroit, Michigan, six leaders of the Communist Party were found guilty under the Smith Act and were sentenced to prison for conspiring to advocate the overthrow of our Government by force and violence. The trial got little newspaper attention; in fact, there were probably no headlines about the trial outside of Detroit. It was not

broadcast or televised because that is not permitted in Federal Courts. Consequently, you may not have heard about it. But it was one of a number of very important steps in the program of your Government to destroy the effectiveness of Communism here at home.

How did the FBI get the evidence that convicted these peacetime traitors? The preparation for this trial started years ago during the administration of President Roosevelt when several undercover informants for the FBI began their training in counter-espionage. When they had finished, they were assigned to find out about the activities of the Communist Party in the Detroit area and to discover its efforts to infiltrate commerce and industry in that great industrial center.

These undercover informants, with patience and skill, were able to become members of the Communist Party cells.

Their indoctrination into Communist thinking and habits had been so thorough that they were accepted as members in the Communist Party without suspicion. In fact, the day before he testified for the Government one of them attended a conference with the six Communists who were awaiting trial. As a matter of fact, they reported to the FBI on the activities of each other as Communists.

So secret and so well planned were the operations of these undercover informants that over the course of several years in the Communist Party none of them knew that the others

were working for the FBI until they appeared as surprise witnesses at the trial.

As a result of this quiet, painstaking work by the FBI and the effectiveness of the Government attorneys in prosecuting this case, these six Communists have been found guilty and the Communist Party has suffered a severe blow.

This case in Detroit is not an isolated one. In every one of these trials of Communist leaders, charged with advocating the overthrow of our Government by force, the FBI has made public the fact that it has penetrated the inner circle of the Communist Party with undercover informants.

The success of the FBI in this regard has been so outstanding that the Communist Party in this country doesn't know which of its Communist members to trust. I assure you that makes their conspiracy a very hazardous occupation.

What is the danger of Communism as it exists in the United States today? There are some who say that it is not a real threat to our national security -- that your Government is too concerned about it. As the President pointed out Monday night, it would be foolhardy to minimize the danger of Communist activity in the United States.

The threat of Communism is a very real one. Communists are scheming, practical and devious men and women dedicated to the destruction of our Government and our way of life. The

policy of the Administration, within the framework of our Constitution and our laws, is to strike the Communists at every opportunity -- to hit them where it hurts most.

Let me tell you some facts about the Communist Party. The National Headquarters is located at 268 Seventh Avenue, New York City. The country is divided into 30 districts. Only five -- Boston, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco -- maintain open headquarters. The districts are further divided into state, county, city, section, and cell organizations.

Today there are approximately 25,000 Communists in the United States. Although their number is small, the potential danger to our national security is great. In effect there are 25,000 potential foreign agents within our country.

What is being done to protect against it? One of the most successful ways to attack a conspiracy is to destroy its leadership. The trial in Detroit which I mentioned is part of the program of your Government to destroy the effectiveness of the Communist Party in the United States -- by proving that its leaders are criminals and sending them to jail.

In 1953 and so far in 1954, 36 active Communist leaders have been convicted and sentenced to jail for conspiring to advocate the overthrow of our Government by force and violence.

I have here the pictures and names of the people who were selected to run the activities of the Communist Party at the last national convention held in this country.

Now, the National Committee of the Communist Party is its principal governing agency and corresponds to the Politburo of the Russian Communist Party. All members of this National Committee already have been convicted with the exception of one whom the Government was unable to bring to trial because of illness.

Nearly all the members of the Alternate National Committee of the Party, the second most important Communist sub-organization, have been indicted or convicted. A large number of district and state organizers have also been convicted or indicted, as have a considerable number of Communist propagandists who were in charge of Communist publications.

There are presently in progress, in widely separated cities of the country, two more trials of additional Communist leaders. A third trial will start soon.

Altogether since 1948, 105 of the principal leaders of the Communist Party have been indicted. Of these, 67 have been convicted of conspiring the overthrow of our Government by force and violence. The success of the prosecutions of these leaders has been a serious blow to the Communist Party.

This successful program of law enforcement is a counter-balance to the fear of Communist infiltration.

The people of this country owe a debt of gratitude to J. Edgar Hoover, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and his associates, for this splendid achievement.

The FBI is also doing a magnificent job at the present time in keeping your Government constantly alerted and advised as to the plans of the remaining Communist conspirators. For security reasons I cannot tell you about the great counterespionage work the FBI is doing today. I can reveal for the first time two significant illustrations from the past.

(1) In early February, 1953, the FBI reported to me one of the results of their counterintelligence work against the Communist conspiracy. They had learned that Stalin was ill and that Malenkov was acting for him and would succeed him if Stalin died. Stalin did die on March 5, 1953, and it is now history that Malenkov succeeded him.

(2) During World War II the FBI learned that orders had gone out to the top leadership of the Communist Party to be in New York on February 8, 1944. The meeting place was surrounded with mystery and secrecy. The FBI learned that a room had been reserved from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. in a certain music studio. As the Party leaders arrived in New York, they were given the address of the building and told to report to Studio II. At about the same time a group of young men who appeared to be musicians began to gather in the adjoining studio for a rehearsal. When the meeting started in Studio II, Earl Browder, then head of the Communist Party, proposed, among other things, that several changes were necessary to insure greater assistance to the Soviet Union. Among these proposals was that the name of the Party should be changed. A new party line was discussed and agreed upon

including the change of the name of the party. All but two of the 35 Communist leaders present supported Browder. There can be no harm in telling you now, as you have probably guessed, that some of these "musicians" in the adjoining room were FBI agents who carried recording equipment into the adjoining studio and the FBI secured a complete transcript of everything that happened at that Communist meeting.

You might be interested in a more timely illustration. Following the President's announcement last Monday evening that I would speak tonight on what is being done about Communism, an interesting reaction occurred in Party circles. The Communists became very concerned, and in various sections of the country the underground leaders scattered and have tried to completely disappear for a few days to see what happens.

We know that one of the major objectives of the Communist Party has been to infiltrate our Government. We have no intention of letting this happen.

The history of how the Communist underground infiltrated our National Government, with the disastrous loss of atomic information and other defense data, is now familiar to all Americans. Earlier attempts to prevent this failed, partly because they were based on the belief that our Government could stop the loss of Government secrets to foreign agents merely by removing those Government employees who were found to be disloyal to the United States. But we found by studying Communist infiltration into free governments that the Communists do not rely solely on persons who

are disloyal and those who are avowed members of the Communist Party to steal government secrets. In addition to espionage agents they cleverly use first, people who are indoctrinated with Communist ideology in some "front" organization and who do not realize the full meaning of the Communist international conspiracy.

Second, they use persons who are subject to blackmail because of personal habits that they do not want to have exposed to public view.

Third, they use persons such as chronic excessive drinkers or others who talk too much about government secrets -- persons whom you and I would call just plain blabbermouths.

Now these people are not disloyal, but they are the types used by the Soviet in all free countries to obtain government secrets. We believe that they do not belong in sensitive government jobs handling secret information which would be of great value to our enemies. I'm sure you wouldn't want them handling your own confidential affairs.

For that reason, we have adopted the Employee Security Program and under it have removed hundreds of such employees who were security risks.

But equally as important -- and this is what hurts the Communists -- we will not employ such persons in the first instance. When a person applies for a position of any importance, he is fully investigated either by the FBI or other appropriate investigative agency, and if there is any question about him from the security standpoint, he does not get the job.

The American people want no more of the type of Hiss, Remington, or Harry Dexter White. They may be assured that so far as humanly possible, this country is protected against further loss from Government sources of secret defense information to our enemies.

The Administration's Employee Security Program, then, is the second effective counter to Communist efforts in the United States.

The third effective measure which your Government is using to destroy the Communist menace in this country is the Internal Security Act passed in 1950. Under its provisions all subversive organizations, that is, organizations dedicated to overthrowing the Government of the United States by force and violence, are required to register with the Department of Justice. They must disclose their officers, membership, activities and finances to the American people.

The results of this law are only now beginning to bear fruit.

Last year the Subversive Activities Control Board, after a full hearing, held that the Communist Party of the United States is under the control and domination of a foreign power and is pledged to the overthrow of our Government by force and violence. This case is now on appeal before the courts and will be argued by the Department of Justice next month.

This case will make possible the enforcement for the first time of another equally important provision of the Internal Security Act requiring that all organizations fronting for subversive groups register with the Department of Justice. A front organization is one of the treacherous devices used by the Communists in an effort to deceive people.

Originally the front was created by the early Communist leaders, Lenin and Trotsky, as an instrumentality of Soviet foreign policy. From that day to this, Communist fronts have been used to serve the Soviet cause. In fact, the first front in the United States which started under the name of "Friends of the Soviet Union" is still functioning under the high-sounding title of "The National Council of American Soviet Friendship."

Within the past year the Department of Justice has charged twelve front organizations with being under the control of the Communist movement. It has asked the Subversive Activities Control Board to require them to register and to comply with the law. In addition, the FBI has under investigation some 200 known or suspected front or Communist affiliated organizations.

Through these proceedings your Government is moving to force these organizations into the open to disclose them for what they are.

If this law is upheld by the Courts, the Communist Party and its front organizations will soon have to make public

the source of all their finances and account for all their expenditures.

The Communist Party will have to list all its members and such members will be prohibited from working in any defense facility. They will not be permitted to obtain or use passports. A member of any front organization will have to reveal his membership if he attempts to seek or hold employment by the United States or in any defense facility. These Communist organizations will have to label all publications and announce sponsorship of any radio or television program.

Thus you can see how the Communist Party and the front organizations will be crippled if they comply with the law.

The Communist Party has announced that if the law is upheld it will not register and individual Communists will not register. If the Communist Party and the Organizations they control carry out their threat and willfully disobey the law, the Communist Party and its individual members will themselves, for all practical purposes, by their own acts outlaw the Communist Party.

In addition to the three programs which I have referred to, the Department of Justice is using every other legal weapon which this nation has to oppose and bring to justice members of the Communist Party involved in law violations.

For example, last week the Communists received another body blow in the courts in the form of the conviction of Ben Gold. He is President of the Fur and Leather Workers Union of America, a union which has been expelled by the CIO because it is Communist dominated. Ben Gold and his union for years have been one of the important sources of Communist financing. Gold was found guilty of lying under oath about his Communist Party membership.

Last Wednesday during the early morning hours, Mary Esther Gebhardt sailed for her homeland. This woman entered the United States eight years ago and thereafter actively engaged in Communist Party activities in this country, Because of these activities she was ordered deported by the Department of Justice.

She was an alien, but we are proceeding just as vigorously against Communists who, under our law can be denaturalized. For example, William Allan, one of the convicted defendants in the Smith Act case in Detroit, is a naturalized citizen, and the Department of Justice recently has moved to take his citizenship from him.

Our Immigration and Naturalization Service, which has been doing a good job, has started denaturalization suits against many others. On Wednesday, I issued instructions for the filing of a denaturalization suit against the notorious Communist leader, Steve Nelson, already convicted as a felon under the Smith Act.

Since January 1953, 208 persons with records of subversive activity or affiliation have been deported or ordered to be deported.

I want to emphasize a very important aspect of all these measures the Government has used or intends to use to combat Communism.

All of the efforts of the Government to oppose Communism have been made and will continue to be made within the framework of the Constitution of the United States and under the laws of our country. That means that the procedures followed, have been and will continue to be, basically fair in accordance with the traditional American conceptions of due process of law. We have proceeded with a careful regard for individual dignity and freedom and the preservation of personal liberty.

We are determined to destroy the effectiveness of the Communist movement in this country. American policy is officially set forth in a resolution proposed by the United States at the recent meeting of the governments of the western hemisphere at Caracas. That resolution was adopted by all the nations of this hemisphere, with only one dissenting vote.

It states that "The subversive character of the Communist international movement continues to constitute * * *

a special and immediate threat to the national institutions and the peace and security of the American states * * * and therefore the Tenth Inter-American Conference recommends the following steps for the purpose of counteracting the subversive activities of the international Communist movement * * * measures to require disclosures of identity, activities, and sources of funds of those who are spreading propaganda of the international Communist movement."

The United States is living up to its commitment under the Caracas Resolution by the Program I have outlined.

Great progress has been made in destroying the effectiveness of the Communist movement here at home. However, there are loopholes in our laws which need to be plugged to complete the task of destroying this threat to our nation's safety. Therefore, the Administration proposed the legislation to complete the job. I will discuss these proposals in more detail with the House and Senate Committees in the near future. Briefly they are:

1. We need a new law to allow an employer to dismiss from defense plants during a national emergency any person whose record shows he is likely to engage in sabotage or espionage. There is no authority to remove them from power plants and other

key spots where the dangers of sabotage are greatest, unless the person is actually working on a classified defense contract. The National Security Council last month determined that such persons constitute a peril to our national security. Therefore, a bill will soon be presented to Congress authorizing the dismissal of such persons if, after a hearing, they are determined to be potential saboteurs or espionage agents.

2. We need a new law to eliminate Communist control of any industrial organization or labor union in vital sections of our national economy. You will recall that several years ago the CIO expelled from its ranks a number of unions in areas such as the communications, mining, electrical and maritime industries on the ground that these unions were Communist dominated. Leaders of both the A.F. of L. and the CIO, as well as Congressional Committees, have pointed out the grave peril to national security of having the leadership of these expelled unions controlled by Communists. But existing law does not provide any satisfactory means for eliminating such domination. The proposed legislation will allow the Subversive Activities Control Board to conduct hearings and determine whether or not a union or industrial organization is in fact dominated by the Communist Party and is in a position to substantially damage our national security. If it is so found, the law

would prohibit any employee from paying dues or contributing goods or services to any such organization. It would deny employment in a defense plant to any person who is a member of such an organization. Adequate provision will be made in the proposed bill so that such an organization can, after such a finding, throw out its Communist leaders and be restored to good standing.

3. There is need for a law that will prevent persons from using the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination for the purpose of refusing to testify in order to shield other persons. We propose a law which would allow the Government prosecutor to grant ~~immunity from prosecution~~ to such person so he may be compelled to testify. Some states have such laws now and they have proved to be very helpful in obtaining evidence to break up illegal conspiracies. It is time to give similar powers to the Department of Justice to catch the higher-ups in the Communist conspiracy.

4. Since 1940 the Federal Government has allowed the FBI, upon authority of the Attorney General, to intercept telephone communications whenever it seems likely that the person using the telephone is engaged in subversive activities which may involve treason, sabotage or espionage. Today this evidence cannot be

used in Federal Courts to convict such a person of a crime involving our national security. This has seriously hampered our Federal law enforcement officials in combating the Communist menace in this country. We therefore need a law which will allow evidence so obtained to be introduced in court in treason, sabotage, espionage, or other cases involving our national security. America needs such an anti-traitor law.

5. We have sent or will send to Congress other bills to strengthen further our legal defenses against subversion. For example, one would provide the death penalty for peacetime espionage. Another, in carrying out the President's recommendation in the State of the Union message, would take away the citizenship of any person found guilty of advocating the overthrow of the Government by force. Still another would enlarge the statute of limitations in espionage cases.

If these proposals and the others which I have outlined are enacted into law, the FBI, and the other investigating agencies of our Government, will have new and powerful constitutional weapons to destroy by legal, orderly processes the Communist Party in this country.

In closing let me emphasize what the President said Monday night. Although we must be constantly alert to the danger of Communist infiltration, we should not have exaggerated fears of the danger.

The FBI, the Department of Justice and the courts are your agents in dealing with this Communist conspiracy. All are vigilant in their readiness to meet any move or emergency which the Communist Party in America might precipitate. They are your guarantee that the liberties of all Americans will be preserved and ever strengthened from any enemies who seek to destroy them. .

Thank you, and goodnight.