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ADDRESS

BY

HONORABLE HERBERT BROWNELL, JR.
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

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before
American Veterans of World War II

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Tonight I would like to disclose some of the story of two fugitive leaders of the American Communists who were captured a few days ago in the mountains of California by the FBI, and discuss the significance of their activities in our present day life.

Seven years have passed since you laid down your arms after achieving an heroic victory over the power-hungry totalitarian armies.

You had every right to expect that the years ahead would be peaceful ones.

They would have been had it not been for the power-hungry occupants of the Kremlin and their equally power-hungry Communists elsewhere in the world.

Communist and Fascist methods and aims are one and the same. Their whole energy is directed to enslavement of the masses. Where they are in power we have seen a return to the godless, terroristic rule of the Dark Ages.

The masters in this wierd, tyrannical scheme of Communism talk in sweet terms of providing for man full freedom. This talk influences many. How empty this talk is has already been sadly learned by the freedom-loving peoples of Poland and other satellite nations. In recent months we have seen East Germans and others in subjugated lands seek to cast off the yoke. Unarmed as these peoples are, struggling against the guns of Red tanks manned by blood-thirsty Communists to whom the life of a man, woman or child means nothing, they still seek to regain their freedom.

Communism, briefly, is the great deception.

This deception has had its effect in our own United States on many persons, including those you ordinarily wouldn't look upon as the kind

who would be persuaded to buy the Brooklyn bridge from the sidewalk hawkker.

That, unfortunately, is the reason why the great deception becomes the great menace to our freedoms and, because of spy and espionage activity, to our very lives.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, the great director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, estimates the membership of the Communist Party of the United States is now just under 25-thousand. You've heard that figure before. But many people fail to read a little further and find out what else Mr. Hoover says about this. What they miss is his statement that for every active Communist party member there are 10 more persons willing and able to carry out their orders.

Here, then, we have a quarter-million persons who would collaborate or sympathize with a movement to overthrow our form of government by force and violence. Only a handful were needed in the Kremlin-directed overthrows of what had been free governments in Europe. They did it by infiltration. And it was by infiltration they made their first gains here.

You are aware of efforts they have made to infiltrate veterans' organizations. These efforts, greatly multiplied, give you a picture of what they are trying to do in government, in labor, in our schools, for in these three fields they could achieve the more necessary gains.

As Attorney General, I have dedicated myself and the Department of Justice to use every legal weapon to expose and punish the conspirators in this great deception. Fortunately, the FBI, that most respected unit of our Government, has been working hard over the years in its investigation of

Communism. Unfortunately, much of what the FBI uncovered, gathered dust in the Department of Justice files. Now, the dust is being removed and lawyers in the Criminal Division are working long hours each day to bring actions against those who would destroy us.

Let us examine for a moment the Communist of today. Honesty and integrity are not in his makeup. That is because Communism teaches that deceit and conspiratorial tactics are permissible and moral as means to achieve Communist control of the world.

The Communist won't engage in open debate. He knows that in free debate his theories would be no match for the proven worth of our way of life.

The Communist in this country long has contended that his party is a political one -- that the Government has been engaged in an unconstitutional movement to eliminate it from the political arena.

That it is not a political party, but a foreign-directed conspiratorial movement aimed at destruction of this Nation and making it a slave-nation under Soviet Russia has been well-proven before the Subversive Activities Control Board. And that its top leaders were engaged in a conspiracy to teach and advocate forceful overthrow of our Government has been proven in the trial court and upheld by the Supreme Court.

That its activities are criminal is well-established by the actions of certain of its leaders when the going got rough. They act just like any other criminal as is proven by the fact that four of its convicted leaders and four others under indictment went into hiding.

Since these flights, three have been captured. First to be caught was Gus Hall, who had fled to Mexico. Then, last week, the FBI

captured two fugitives in a hideout 8,000 feet up in the Sierra Mountains near Sonora, California. One was Sidney Steinberg, who has been described as Assistant National Labor Secretary of the Communist Party, and who was indicted in 1951 under the Smith Act.

The other was Robert Thompson, former National Secretary of the Young Communist League who in 1945 became a member of the National Board of the Communist Party.

Now Thompson and Steinberg remind me of the swindler who flees with his bag of loot and seeks out an isolated place to hide in until the heat is off. Like this swindler, both these men made changes in their physical appearance. Like the swindler or the gangster of the Dillinger era, they had women fronting for them. One of them, Mrs. Shirley Kremen, had made the arrangements to rent the cabin in which they sought refuge. She too was captured in the cabin and is among those charged with harboring the fugitives.

At the time of his conviction in 1948, and on until he was ordered to surrender to begin his 3-year prison term, Thompson's build was muscular, and there was little appearance of weight. His hair was brown and he was clean-shaven. When captured, he appeared obese, having gained about thirty pounds purposely. He had grown a mustache, which he dyed strawberry blond to match his dyed hair and eyebrows. Steinberg had also gone to considerable work to effect a disguise. He, too, grew a mustache and his hair, previously long and wavy, is now closely cropped. He had taken off considerable weight.

Thompson, in his flight, abandoned a wife and two children in Long Island City, New York. He went under an assumed name and had driver's

licenses and a social security card under his alias of John Francis Brennan. Any and all of these things are part of the routine followed by other criminals such as the bank robber, the extortionist.

The capture of Thompson and Steinberg extremely nettled the Communist Party leadership. It interfered with their scheme of things.

Shortly after the capture was announced, I received word that the Party was circulating a blueprint for a new attack upon the FBI and Mr. Hoover. The attack was not long in coming. On the following day, the New York "Daily Worker" contained an editorial which fit the blueprint right down the line.

It described the FBI as a political police, the captured leaders as Americans guilty of no crime. It stressed the fact that Thompson was a veteran and tubercular.

Now all of this is just window dressing. It is part of the overall plan of the Communist Party to seek to destroy the confidence of the people in its Government and in its public servants.

The Communists know they cannot overthrow our Government by force and violence so long as the people have faith and confidence in it and in its officials and employees.

Knowing this, their present tactic is to infiltrate positions of responsibility and to undermine our system of government from within.

Wherever the Communist movement has been successful, it has been preceded by a period devoted to breaking down the faith of the people so that the Government is weak and helpless in the face of a coup. That is why the President instituted the new Employee Security Program for the Executive Branch of the Federal Government. This task of weeding out the disloyal and the security risks is not an easy one, for at the same time we must fully

safeguard the loyal. We would be the losers if in our efforts we adopted the illegal methods of operation of the Communists. To act along illegal lines would mean the end of our basic civil liberties which we seek to defend and which you already have fought to preserve.

In this security program, the Attorney General is required to maintain a list of organizations designated as subversive. The purpose is solely to alert the various government agencies that a designated organization is permeated with Communists and fellow-travelers. Where it appears that a government employee is a member of such an organization, this factor may be taken into account in determining whether he is a security risk.

Thorough investigation and study of evidence precedes the designation of an organization. When the evidence indicates that an organization is in fact and sympathy aligned with the Communist movement, then it is my responsibility as Attorney General to move to designate it as subversive and to make that fact public.

Publication of the fact makes it possible for uninformed loyal citizens to disassociate themselves from such groups at the earliest possible moment. Continued activity in such groups could render them ineligible for Government employment.

The most recent group upon whom notice of proposed designation was served is the National Lawyers Guild.

The evidence is clear that at least since 1946, the leadership of the National Lawyers Guild has been in the hands of card-carrying Communists and prominent fellow-travelers. It has become more and more the legal mouthpiece of the Communist Party and its members. It has consistently opposed all laws or investigations by which the freedom-loving people of this

country have sought to curb or expose Communist activity in the United States.

We charge that the Guild is dominated and controlled by the Communists and fully committed to the Communist Party line. Shortly it will be specifically charged that:

- (1) The Guild and its affiliated chapters were initiated, proposed and organized under the direct supervision of the Communist Party of the United States.
- (2) The Guild and its affiliated chapters are being and have been utilized by the Communist Party and its members to indoctrinate members of the legal profession for the purpose of securing support for and sympathy with the policies, objectives and program of the Communist Party, and thereby to serve as the legal arm of the Communist Party.
- (3) From 1946 until the present, the Guild and its affiliated chapters have closely followed, supported, and paralleled the policies and programs of the Communist Party.
- (4) From 1946 until the present, the National Lawyers Guild and its affiliated chapters have substantially followed, supported, and paralleled the foreign policy of the Soviet Union and opposed the policy of the United States when in conflict with that of Soviet Russia.

(5) From 1946 until the present, the executive officers or persons performing the duties of executive officers, have included past or present members of the Communist Party and individuals with a substantial record of Communist front membership and activity. Such individuals have directed, supervised and dominated the policies, programs and activities of the National Lawyers Guild.

As an organization, the National Lawyers Guild has interceded in practically every major case involving the Communist Party, its officials and its front organizations. In every instance, these intercessions were on behalf of the Communists. It interceded for Gerhardt Eisler, Communist international agent convicted of passport fraud and contempt of Congress. Eisler, like Thompson, was one of those who fled after conviction. You all recall his spectacular appearance as a stowaway aboard the Polish motorship BATORY.

To name a few more cases in which the Guild, as an organization, interceded, there was that of Carl Aldo Marzani, who was convicted of concealing Communist affiliations while employed by the Federal Government; John Howard Lawson and Dawson Trumbo, Hollywood screenwriters convicted of contempt of Congress; **disbarment** proceedings against the contemptuous lawyers who represented Party leaders in Smith Act cases, and the case of the atomic spies, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

One of its members appeared as defense lawyer for Valentin Gubitchev, the Russian charged with spying against the United States in the Judy Coplon case. This member based many of his questions on notes

passed to him by a representative of the Soviet Embassy, who was sitting at his side during the trial. This Russian official was the Second Secretary of the Embassy, Yuri Novikov, who in January of this year was declared persona non grata by the State Department for engaging in Soviet espionage with Otto Verber and Kurt Ponger. Both Verber and Ponger subsequently pleaded guilty to espionage.

I would like also to give some examples of how the Guild has followed the Communist Party line. In 1950, the "Daily Worker" attacked the New York City Board of Education trial of a school teacher accused of being a Communist. The "Lawyers Guild Review" reports a resolution by the Guild deploring continued attacks upon intellectual freedom of students and teachers.

Over the years, the Communist Party has attacked Mr. Hoover as "chief of the national thought police," and has called for a halt to the FBI's efforts to fight Communism. In resolutions the Guild has opposed what it called the Gestapo activities of the FBI and demanded removal of Mr. Hoover.

Following the Communist line, they attacked contempt citations upon the contemptuous Communist leaders' attorneys; various committees of Congress investigating Communism; the European Recovery Plan; the Smith Act prosecutions; the non-Communist affidavit of the Labor-Management Relations Act; among others.

Communism and the Korean war have presented a newer problem. There has been considerable discussion in the press of American GI's who purportedly espoused the Communist cause while prisoners of the Reds.

I cannot stress strongly enough that it would be unfair to innocent soldiers and their families to make general charges against those who were prisoners.

The Department of Defense is making a very careful investigation and will make a very careful evaluation of any real evidence uncovered. In the event it believes prosecution is warranted in any one case, it could proceed through courts martial -- or, in certain unusual cases, turn over the matter to the Department of Justice for its consideration.

Let me assure you that no case involving treason or any other crime against the United States has been referred to the Department of Justice by the Department of Defense since the Armistice. If any case is referred, it will be studied cautiously and thoroughly because we do not want to take hasty or unwarranted action.

We must all take into account the imprisonment conditions which our men encountered in North Korea. Many were subjected to extreme physical and mental tortures. Strong-willed indeed the man who withstood these terrors.

For the present, let us all withhold judgment and avoid any loose talk about "collaborators" and "traitors." We must treat the discussions thus far as "hearsay." And "hearsay" is not legally acceptable evidence.

I have discussed the Smith Act prosecutions and the Employee Security Program. We have other programs underway which also are designed to protect our Nation from the insidious great deception of the Communists.

We are pressing petitions asking the Subversive Activities Control Board to order various Communist fronts to register with the Attorney General as required under the Internal Security Act. The law

under which these actions are taken is designed to expose these organizations and their activities, and such matters as their financial operations, including source and amounts of income as well as purposes for which these funds are spent.

We are taking steps wherever possible to prosecute Communists who falsely state in affidavits filed with the National Labor Relations Board that they are not Communists. You know any organization cannot be certified for consideration by the NLRB unless its officers file affidavits swearing they are not Communists.

We have given priority to denaturalization and deportation of Communists who were not born in the United States. Those who were naturalized will be subject to deportation proceedings if we are successful in obtaining court orders cancelling their citizenship. Those who are aliens need be handled only in deportation proceedings.

We are now engaged in a study of those who decline to answer questions about Communist affiliations when appearing before Federal Grand juries and Congressional investigating committees.

But meantime, I would like to emphasize that those who seek the protection of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution seem to be forgetting that those who assert their privileges under the Constitution also have a duty to perform -- that is, to protect it. It certainly is incongruous for one who seeks to destroy the freedoms guaranteed by that great document to seek its protection in an effort to thwart the Government's search for facts.

Let me assure you that we intend to press actions in every possible field against those who are engaged in the Great Deception.

In closing, I would like to congratulate you, the members of the American Veterans of World War II, for the work you have done since becoming the first and only veterans' group of World War II to be chartered by Congress. You are to be congratulated for your interest and work in the field of international affairs; for your placement of nation before selfish interests; for your suggestions to President Eisenhower for ways in which to save an estimated \$50,000,000; and, for your advocacy of civil service reforms in matters pertaining to veterans. You have demonstrated your belief that an alert citizenry is the best guarantee that our Constitutional freedoms will not be destroyed. It is heartening indeed to anyone in a position of responsibility in Government to watch the determined effort you are making to provide solutions for our pressing national problems. Let me assure you, your suggestions are welcome doubly because each one of you has proved on the field of battle that you can be counted upon to preserve and improve our American way of life against the onslaught of the great deception.