First Report, Un-American Activities in Washington State, Report of the Joint Legislative Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities in Washington State, 1948
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First Report

Un-American Activities in Washington State

1948

Report of the Joint Legislative Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities

STATE OF WASHINGTON

REPORT OF JOINT FACT FINDING COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

Established by the Thirtieth Legislature Under
House Concurrent Resolution No. 10

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Preface

To the Hon. Herbert Hamblen, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and members of the 30th Washington State Legislature:

Herewith is submitted a transcript of the proceedings of the first public hearings held by the Joint Legislative Committee named by your honorable body to investigate subversive activities in the State of Washington.

The Committee conducted its proceedings under authority vested in it by House Concurrent Resolution No. 10. The constitutionality of your investigating body has been upheld by the Supreme Court of the State of Washington.

The first public hearings were held in the 146th Field Artillery Armory, Fourth and Harrison, Seattle, from January 27 to February 5, inclusive.

The testimony and evidence of subversive activities in the State of Washington produced at these hearings were developed by thorough and painstaking investigation directed by your Committee.

The hearings were the culmination of the first phase of the Committee's investigations. The testimony and evidence produced at the hearings concerned largely, though not exclusively, the operations of the Washington Pension Union leadership.

Your Committee feels it has definitely established in these hearings that the Pension Union leadership as of the date of the hearings was definitely of a subversive character. Through witnesses and documentary evidence the Committee established that many of the Pension Union leaders were members of the Communist Party and that they wilfully and coercively used the Pension Union as a sounding board to propagandize and exploit the interests of Soviet Russia as opposed to the best interests and safety and security of the United States.

It should be pointed out that although the Washington Pension Union leaders named in the testimony and evidence were invited to take the witness stand and state, under oath, whether or not they disagreed with or concurred in the evidence presented, none availed himself or herself of the opportunity.

Nevertheless, many of those named as subversive employed the now well-known Communist tactics of vilification and smear and issued public denials that did not carry the weight of sworn testimony and which, under the circumstances, your Committee must regard as wholly irresponsible.

Conduct of the Washington Pension Union by these subversive elements is submitted as an example of the manner in which these forces, detrimental to the security of our country, have operated in other organizations and groups.

Especially does your Committee emphasize, for your attention, the overwhelming testimony concerning the operation of a Communist bloc in our legislative sessions under the pseudonym of an established major political party.

At all times it has been the purpose of the Communist forces operating underground in our legislature and in labor and other organizations to conceal their true identity.

The testimony and evidence in the first hearings prove conclusively, in the judgment of your Committee, that:

1. Communists in the State of Washington operate under, and undeviatingly follow, policies laid down for them by the Soviet government.

2. These policies are promulgated on a nation-wide basis and that the activities of Communists in the State of Washington are coordinated with Communist activities in the other states of the union.

3. The dovetailed nation-wide program is designed to create distrust of their form of government in the minds and hearts of the American people; create unrest and civil strife, and impede the normal processes of state and national government, all to the end of weakening and ultimately destroying the United States as a constitutional republic and thereby facilitating the avowed Soviet purpose of substituting here a totalitarian dictatorship.

Fantastic as this may appear to the uninitiate and the naive, the testimony produced at the public hearings clearly brings into view the extreme danger of the Soviet directed Communist conspiracy to the peace and security of the people of the State of Washington and the United States.

The Committee wishes to lay special emphasis on the fact that its testimony and documentary evidence were made possible by the tireless and devoted labor of a highly specialized staff of investigators, all of whom have had years of training in the investigative field in various branches of the Federal government.

ALBERT F. CANWELL, *Chairman*

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