

U.S. COMMUNISTS HIDE DEEPER: MEETINGS FEW, RECORDS GONE

Here, from the top man in the FBI, is a first-hand report on two great national problems—crime and Communism.

J. Edgar Hoover, who has made a career of tracking down criminals and Communists, gives the facts—and a pointed warning—in testimony before a committee of Congress.

Mr. Hoover discloses, among other things: That crime in this country has reached record proportions, and continues to rise.

That a major crime is committed every 14.9 seconds in U.S.

That Communists, operating on orders from Moscow, remain a threat to U.S. security.

Following are sections from testimony by J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, released last week by the House Appropriations Committee:

For the first six months of the calendar year 1953 there were 1,047,290 major crimes committed in the United States. If this trend should continue, we will finish 1953 with a greater number of major crimes than occurred in 1952, which was then the all-time high year in the history of this country. It shows that one major crime was committed every 14.9 seconds. Every 4.3 minutes a crime of murder, manslaughter, rape, or assault with intent to kill was committed in those first six months. The victims of killers in this country totaled 6,470, while over 54,000 other persons were violently assaulted by rapists or potential killers. Twenty-nine thousand victims were confronted by robbers using guns, or other weapons, or force. During an average day during the first six months of [1953], 252 aggravated assaults occurred, 622 auto thefts, 1,285 burglaries, and 3,379 larcenies occurred.

I do not believe the average citizen senses the proper role that crime plays as a national problem. It exists on a scale so enormous that it is difficult to grasp it. It can reasonably be estimated that 20 billion dollars annually is the cost of crime in this country. That represents a cost of \$495 for each family in the United States; for every dollar spent on education \$1.82 goes to crime; for every dollar donated to churches, \$10 goes to crime.

Burglary is a typical example. The average burglary loss in this country,

according to estimates prepared from these figures collected from local authorities, is \$180 for burglary. At this rate, estimating 442,760 burglaries committed in the United States during 1952, the loss would be nearly 80 million dollars.

Total crime increased 2.5 per cent. Crime in the rural areas registered an increase of 9 per cent, and crime in the cities registered an increase of 0.5 per cent compared with the first six months' average in 1952. I particularly call attention to aggravated assaults which, if the 1953 crime rate continues, will show an increase of 8.4 per cent. The crime of rape shows an increase of 6.5 per cent. Crimes against property increased 2.2

per cent; auto theft increased 5.1 per cent; burglary increased 3.4 per cent; robbery increased 1.4 per cent; larceny increased 1.2 per cent.

YOUTH IN CRIME

Now, turning to the problem of youth in crime, of the 1,110,675 persons arrested in 1952, 7.8 per cent were under 18 years of age; 13.3 per cent were under 21 years of age, and 23.1 per cent were under 25 years of age. As an indication of the participation of youth in crimes against property, it is observed that 7.8 per cent of all persons arrested were 17 years of age or under. This group under 18 years of age accounted for 19.4 per cent of all robberies, 36.9 per cent of all larcenies, 47.8 per cent of all burglaries, 52.6 per cent of all auto thefts. They were all committed by persons 17 years of age or less. Nearly one half of the persons arrested for crimes against property involved people who were under 21 years of age . . .

EFFECT OF ABUSE OF PAROLE PROBATION

There is one factor which may be the cause of the increase of crime, in my estimation. That is the abuse of parole, probation, and other forms of clemency which, to my mind, almost makes justice a mockery. I am strongly in favor of proper parole and probation and any form of clemency that tends to rehabilitate men, but I am vigorously opposed to the type of clemency which turns confirmed criminals loose upon society. I feel very strongly about that.

Just last September Special Agent J. Brady Murphy, of our Baltimore office, was killed in a gun battle by a man re-



Staff Photo—USIN&WE

FBI CHIEF HOOVER

leased by federal authorities, a man with a long criminal record, a man who had assaulted a guard in a federal penitentiary and who had been previously convicted of crimes in other parts of the country. He was conditionally released five years and three months before the expiration of his maximum sentence. Six months after his release he was killed in a gun battle in Baltimore, but it also resulted in the death of one of our agents and the wounding of another.

I might point out to this Committee that 11 of the 18 agents of this Bureau who died in line of duty were killed by criminals who had been paroled or had been placed on probation or who had received lenient treatment in the courts. Of the 83,410 fugitives for whom "wanted" notices have been placed in our identification division, 10,926 represent parole violators, and 1,436 are probation violators. These figures speak for themselves as to the abuses of parole and probation procedures.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS

The basic objectives of our investigations in the field of internal security are, first, the developing of intelligence information concerning the activities of individuals and organizations who aim at subversion or the overthrow of our Government; second, procuring legal evidence to sustain prosecutions; third, ascertaining facts pertinent to the loyalty and security of federal employes and persons engaged on atomic-energy and other confidential national-defense projects.

SECURITY WORK OF THE FBI

There has been a public misconception about the security work of the FBI. A misconception on the part of certain segments of the public, at least, is that the Bureau is solely responsible for the entire internal security of the United States. That, of course, is not a true picture. In the first place, the Bureau does not give clearances. I have outlined, I believe, to this Committee in connection with the employment of persons in other branches of the Government where names are submitted to (the FBI either for a name check or investigation, that the FBI is a fact-gathering agency and specifically limits itself to investigation without any recommendation or evaluation. If the Bureau were to function otherwise, we would be acting as investigator, judge, and jury.

The Bureau constantly strives to protect the civil rights of individuals. Its operations are under such constant scrutiny that the FBI could never become what the Communists and their sympathizers like to refer to as the American "Gestapo."

In the first place, the Bureau is directly responsible to the Attorney General. Its reports upon any investigative activity are submitted to the Attorney General or his assistants for action or review. In addition, all of our cases that go into the courts are based upon specific charges. In those that go to trial we are subject to cross-examination by defense counsel and proper inquiry by the court. As you know, we appear before this Committee each year to give a report on the work and operations of the Bureau

and answer any questions the Committee desires to ask.

In addition, the executive branch of the Government itself is constantly making inquiry into the funds, operations and personnel of the FBI so that the Bureau could never be a so-called Gestapo.

The Bureau is not alone responsible for the internal security of the country. I would like to point out that in the matters we handle, the decision to prosecute is that of the Department of Justice and not that of the FBI. We never make recommendations for prosecution or nolle prosequere. That is the responsibility of the officials of the main Department. We are not responsible for the registration of subversive organizations. That is a responsibility of the departmental officials. The decision for dealing with subversive aliens is the responsibility of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, not the FBI. Monitoring of foreign radio broadcasts is under the control of the FCC [Federal Communications Commission]. The Department of Defense screens NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] personnel, handles plant protection, and designates key industrial facilities. Also, the Customs Service has certain responsibilities which enter into the field of internal security.

The FBI has the responsibility of investigating activities of subversive and Communist elements in this country. It has the responsibility for the investigation of espionage, sabotage, and related matters in this country.

I would like to point out to the Committee that the principal Communist ac-

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Crime Is Widespread

IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1953:

6,470 Americans were victims of murder or manslaughter

54,000 were victims of violent assault

29,000 were victims of armed robbery

1 MILLION major crimes were committed in U.S.



Crime Is Costly

IN 1953, WHEN

EDUCATION cost about 11 billion dollars, or \$272 for each U.S. family, and

CHURCHES received donations of about 2 billion dollars, or \$50 for each U.S. family,

CRIME cost about 20 billion dollars, or \$495 for each U.S. family.





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activity in the United States during the past year has been—

1. Its peace objective geared primarily to raising nation-wide appeal for a settlement of the Korean war;
2. The recall of American troops from abroad;
3. A five-power peace pact, including Communist China;
4. The resumption of trade with the Iron Curtain countries.

The American people were called upon repeatedly to bombard the White House with the above demands.

That has been the principal goal of the Communist propaganda and efforts.

On the domestic front, the Communists have also directed their attention to urging repeal of the Smith Act, the Taft-Hartley law, and the Internal Security Act of 1950. They also have been enlisting aid for the so-called Smith Act victims on trial, denouncing the prosecution and carrying on an extensive campaign for arousing public sympathy and obtaining funds in their behalf . . .

As you know, the Communist International or Comintern was established in March of 1919 with headquarters in Moscow. It was required that all decisions of the congresses of the Communist International as well as the decisions of its executive committee were to be binding on all parties affiliated with the Communist International. That included the Communist Party of the United States. In other words, they were to take orders and follow the dictates of Moscow.

In 1921, the Communist Party of the United States affiliated with the Communist International and became subservient to all of its decisions. That was carried out openly until 1940 when the passage of the Voorhis Act forced the Communist Party to withdraw, at least ostensibly. Otherwise the Communist Party would have been required to register as an organization subject to foreign control.

Practically, however, they continued and are still under the domination and control of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The advocacy of force and violence by the Communist Party is now a matter of judicial and congressional determination.

As you will recall, over a number of years there was a lot of double talk on the part of the Communists that they never advocated overthrow of the Government by force and violence, they insisting that they were completely a political party. This contention has been disproved by the results of various court cases and by hearings held by congressional committees.

The largest membership of the Communist Party is concentrated on the East and West Coasts and in the urban industrial centers.

The extent of potential dangerousness of the Communist Party, U. S. A., and its security threat to the nation should not be judged merely by the extent of its membership. It has a strong fifth column strength. As open party membership ebbs more and more, reliance is placed upon (1) underground leadership, (2) concealed members, (3) front groups, (4) fellow travelers, (5) Communist sympathizers, and (6) dupes . . .

The discipline of the party, as in the past, has been rigidly administered from the top by a small group of Communist Party functionaries who are fanatically devoted to the Communist cause.

The organizational apparatus of the Communist Party is directed through functionaries located in 30 districts throughout the United States. At the present time, only 6 of those 30 districts maintain an open district headquarters. The district organizations are further subdivided by State, county, city, section, and club.

A club unit is never in excess of five members, for security purposes. The members of one club unit are not known to the members of the other club units, for reasons of security.

They usually hold a national convention every two years. No open convention has been recently held but there have been meetings of the national committee or members of the national committee for the purpose of deciding upon policies for the underground and also policies for the above-ground operations. However, the national committee has been very seriously handicapped by the fact that we now have nine members of the committee in prison and two in a fugitive status, one is too ill to stand trial although indicted, and the remaining member has been convicted under the Smith Act and is now out on bail awaiting the appeal of the case. That represents the present status of prosecutions of members of the national committee initiated over the last several years under the Smith Act.

Today, there are two types of Communist Party leadership: Open leadership comprised of people like William Z. Foster and a select group of others; and an underground leadership which actually has been assuming more and more authority and control to administer the entire party in the event it is no longer feasible to continue in the open.

Through the perfection of the under-

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Contacts of Communists limited to avoid detection . . .

ground apparatus, the party aims to preserve intact a hard-core of militant Communists to carry out the aims and objectives of the international Communist movement under all forms of adversity.

The security measures which the Communist Party have taken in order to thwart the efforts of the FBI have been many and detailed in character. No longer are Communist Party membership cards issued; maintenance of membership records are forbidden; contacts of rank-and-file members are limited [to] from three to five—the basic club unit. Most of the local headquarters have been discontinued and party records have been destroyed. No evening meetings are permitted in headquarters without staff members present. Conventions and large meetings are held to the absolute minimum. The use of the telephone and telegraph is avoided.

No contact is had with families or friends; contacts between functionaries are arranged through frequently changed intermediaries; false drivers' licenses have been obtained; assumed names have been adopted; modification of physical appearance has been effected, such as dyeing hair and eyebrows, as was done by a member of the national committee who was apprehended by agents of the FBI in a hideout in the high Sierras in California last August.

They have removed conspicuous means of personal identification such as moles; they have affected a new manner of walking, have changed their dress standards, have avoided old habits and even have avoided old vices, and have avoided appearance in public places where their recognition would be probable.

They communicate through couriers and avoid the use of written communications. They have instituted loyalty tests for all prospective underground personnel. They rotate the underground personnel to avoid detection. The underground staff is usually recruited from trusted Communist Party members, having at least 10 or 12 years' experience.

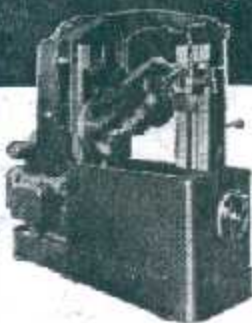
They appear outside of hideouts only at night.

They use different automobiles, and the cars frequently are registered in fictitious names and not names of party members; the license plates are frequently changed.

They have used extreme precautions in regard to surveillance, making rapid and frequent changes of conveyances, entering and leaving subways and buses just before the doors close, and doubling back on their course.



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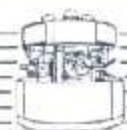
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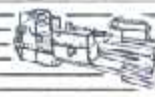
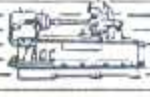
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... Reds' hiding makes FBI use 10 men where 1 sufficed

I cite these various security measures not only because they are of interest to the Committee but to show the stealth of the American Communists. It again shows the increased difficulty with which we are faced in trying to handle these investigations.

The investigative burden in covering the Communist underground has been increased tremendously as is shown by the fact that where 1 agent was formerly needed for proper coverage, we now require as many as 9 or 10 by reason of their greater security consciousness in carrying out their conspirational activities . . .

One of the principal mediums for the attainment of the goal of the Communist Party is through Communist-front organizations. They serve as the media for the Communist Party, in a disguised manner, to exploit the masses to further its revolutionary aims and purposes. The fronts are being utilized in an ever-increasing degree for this particular purpose. Many of the fronts have proven to be the chief sources of recruitment for the Communist Party, they are excellent sources of revenue for raising funds for the party.

All spheres of activity are exploited by the party in its front organizations, such as youth groups, veterans' groups, civil-rights groups, nationality and racial minority groups, press, radio, television, motion-picture industry, the cultural groups, political groups, peace organizations, and foreign-born groups.

I would like to hand to the Committee now a compilation of the prosecutions under the Smith Act, which was the result of our work in that field.

You will note there have been 105 leaders of the Communist movement indicted as a result of investigations of the FBI. Sixty-one have been convicted and sentenced to serve prison terms totaling 261 years and to pay fines in the total amount of \$361,000. Of the 61 convicted, 44 are appealing their cases, 15 are now serving prison terms, and 2 are fugitives. The trials have been postponed because of ill health in the cases of 5; presently, 6 others are on trial; 26 are awaiting trial, and they are located as follows: Five are in St. Louis, 9 in Philadelphia, 1 in New York, and 11 in Cleveland. Three remaining indicted leaders are fugitives.

In regard to the infiltration of labor, the Communists regard labor unions as instruments to be controlled and used to develop the Communist revolution.

A national conference held in August of this year of the Communist Party re-

(Continued on page 84)



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... Party wants members in "key industries of country"

affirmed the time-honored premise that control of the labor union is of primary importance to the development of the Communist revolution in this country.

They designated, particularly, the automobile industry as being the prime target because it is well known that it is one of the most vital industries to our national-defense production.

In New York, the party has set a goal of 65 per cent of its membership to become employed in the basic industries of the country. Instructions were issued for the reorganization of the Communist Party in Los Angeles recently to organize on an industrial basis and party members were requested to secure work in the basic industries in that area, thus showing the trend of placing as many members as they can in the key industries of the country—the basic industries which if disrupted would materially affect our national defense.

Currently, some trade unions operating in the maritime, mining, electrical, and the communications fields are chief strongholds of the Communist Party. The Communist Party still maintains its strongest bases in those unions, which were expelled from the CIO [Congress of Industrial Organizations] during 1949 and 1950. All of this poses a major and dangerous threat to our national security, because it involves these various unions that were expelled by the CIO. One of those unions represents a large portion of all employes in the electrical industry of the United States. Another union that was expelled exercises life-and-death control over our Pacific Coast commerce; another union has members employed in the production of copper and zinc which are essential to the national defense efforts.

Turning to the investigations in our work under the federal employes security program, I will outline it to the Committee.

FEDERAL EMPLOYES SECURITY PROGRAM

On April 27, 1953, the President signed an executive order establishing the federal employes security program, and the FBI has certain functions to perform under the program such as the making of name checks for the Civil Service Commission and the investigation of any information that would tend to raise a question as to a man's loyalty to any subversive activity.

As you know, the committees of Congress, last year, recommended, and Congress approved, the transfer from the Bureau to the Civil Service Commission of a large number of personnel investiga-

tions. This action relieved the burden somewhat. However, the burden has again been materially increased by the fact that the scope of the new program covers security and not only subversion. The result is that in our name checks which we previously could confine to a search for information indicating subversive activities, we now must check all phases of the individual's activity, such as bad moral character, or whether he lacks sobriety and so forth. More extensive checks are now necessary.

I would like to cite the work load of the name checks that were received, showing the volume of the work load in 1953. We received requests for name checks on 398,640 persons; we made fingerprint searches on 423,646; we opened 4,407 field investigations and made preliminary inquiries in 3,381 cases.

The increase in searches and reviews of additional references as required by the new order has increased that phase of our work about 69 per cent.

The Bureau still makes full field investigations under provisions of Public Law 298 when the President of the United States orders the Bureau to investigate a certain class of applicant; or when the Secretary of State, the Director of FOA [Foreign Operations Administration], or the majority of the Atomic Energy Commissioners certify a position to be of high importance or sensitivity or when the Civil Service Commission has information that reflects upon the loyalty of the applicant.

DEPARTMENTAL APPLICANTS

We also make a large number of departmental applicant investigations at the request of the Attorney General. We conduct these investigations covering applicants for United States attorney, United States marshal, and also appointees being considered for appointment to the federal bench. We have been called upon to make investigations by certain committees of Congress of some of their staff members occupying the more sensitive positions, for which we do not receive any reimbursement. We receive no reimbursement for the investigations which we have made and do make for the White House. When General Eisenhower became President he decided that all appointees to be named by the President to Cabinet positions or under Cabinet positions had to be investigated by the FBI before the appointment would be sent to the Senate by the President or before the person would be appointed to the position if it did not require Senate confirmation.