

American Communist Party Has Never Had Broad Base, Following

By JAMES MARLOW
WASHINGTON—AP—The American Communist party has never been able to sink its roots in American life. It has no broad base, no mass following.

The party proclaims itself the champion of the workers. But it has never been able to get its ideas across to the man of the workers. The party big-wigs speak and write a special jargon, Marxian jargon, over the workers' heads.

This may be deliberate. If so, it's an expression of contempt for the workers. If not, then it's due to inability to speak or write any better.

Perhaps the party doesn't want a mass following but wants only

a tightly-knit, well-disciplined, small membership. That in itself would be contempt for the workers.

At any rate, after 30 years' activity in this country, the party's fortunes now are at a low ebb. Getting worse. How much of that is due to the kind of leadership the party has had through its history here?

Future scholars will be better able to answer that when they come to write the history of our times.

Eugene Dennis Muffs Chance
But if Eugene Dennis is an example of the party's top leadership—he ought to be, since he's been one of the very top—it's small wonder the party has missed the

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"WE'LL STAY IN BERLIN," SAYS ACHESON—When Secretary of State Acheson defiantly announced that the Western Allies would stand their ground in West Berlin in the face of a threatened May invasion of 500,000 Communist German youths from the Soviet sector, he knew that our forces in Berlin are prepared for trouble. Here, American MP's in Berlin with fixed bayonets form a "platoon skirmish line" used to clear streets during rioting. For the past month, U. S. troops, military police and West German police have been mapping anti-Red strategy, practicing riot-control and street-fighting. (Photo by NEA-Acme staff correspondent Joe Schuppe.)

boat a mile in getting its ideas across.

Dennis came to Washington in March, 1947, as a voluntary witness before the House un-American activities committee which then was getting very hot and bothered about Communism.

Dennis wanted to state a case for the Communists. With him he brought a 19-page statement which he wanted to read. Just to be sure the press wouldn't miss a line of it, he brought a bundle of copies along.

The story was going to get a lot of publicity. If Dennis had been clever, he might have turned the hearing into a sounding board for his party. But he muffed his chance, made a mess of his appearance, and wound up in jail.

There were two things strange about this hearing. Dennis' real name was Francis Xavier Waldron. He had changed it to Dennis in 1932. And J. Parnell Thomas was not the real name of the committee chairman. His name had been J. Parnell Feeney but he had changed it to Thomas years ago.

Dennis knew this. He almost must have realized—since he had been investigated up and down by the FBI—that his own real name, Waldron, was known to Thomas, who used to be Feeney.

As usual with all witnesses, Dennis was asked to state his name. He said it was Eugene Dennis. Thomas asked him his real name. Dennis said it was Dennis. Thomas said he wanted the real name.

It was a beautiful chance to Dennis to spring a sensation and take the play away from Thomas by saying something like: "I'll tell my real name. It is Francis Xavier Waldron. Now you tell the people, Mr. Thomas, that your real name is J. Parnell Feeney."

Instead, Dennis shouted his name was Dennis. Thomas shouted he wanted Dennis' real name, and the hearing broke up without Dennis having a chance to read his statement, which was why he had come here in the first place.

So the stories went out and, in-

stead of sharing the headlines with Thomas - Feeney, Dennis and his party looked silly. Dennis called a news conference and there related that name was Feeney.

But even then Dennis was so crude in his public relations and getting his ideas across to the public, which was why he had called the news conference, that he tried to make a speech.

Some of the newsmen were surprised by Dennis' almost juvenile performance, having thought the head of the Communist party was shrewder than that.

Remember, Dennis asked to testify before the committee. But when he balked on his name, the committee ordered him to return on April 9 and answer questions. The committee was telling him now. He wasn't asking.

He refused to appear, was cited for contempt, was found guilty in federal court, and got the maximum sentence: one year in jail and a fine of \$1,000. He appealed but was turned down by the supreme court.

So he'll have to serve his sentence. Meanwhile, since 1947 he and 10 other party leaders were found guilty in federal court of conspiracy to teach overthrow of the government. Each got five years.

And, meanwhile, Thomas-Feeney himself was shown to be a fraud. He was found guilty in federal court of defrauding the government on his payrolls and now is serving a sentence of six to 18 months.

Paper Misses Edition

PITTSBURGH—AP—The first edition of the Pittsburgh Press was not published Tuesday because some employees refused to cross picket lines set up by the AFL commercial telegraphers in their nationwide strike against the United Press. The United Press offices are in the press building.

The press management and officials of AFL unions whose members are employed by the newspaper went into a meeting in an effort to settle the matter. Press employees refusing to cross picket lines included drivers, mailers and mechanical workers.

The press distributed a notice to its employees saying the United Press is a rent-paying tenant in the building and "the telegraphers are not employees of the Pittsburgh Press."

Crash-Landed Plane Flown From Icy Lake

ELLENSBURG, Wash.,—AP—The small plane which crashed-landed on Lake Wapatus in northern Kittitas county seven weeks ago has been flown out by Tom Stimpfle, a Spokane pilot.

Stimpfle flew the plane to the Cle Elum airport after taking off from the snow and ice-covered lake without the aid of skis.

Stimpfle flew the plane for Howard Davison of Veradale, who purchased the craft from Roy Shreck of Spokane last week for \$300.

Victor Roberts of Spokane, who was flying the plane when it crashed, still is undergoing treatment for the injuries and exposure he suffered during the three days he was stranded in the mountainous country before he was rescued by a Coast Guard helicopter.

A soapy solution made by pounding and soaking roots of the Yucca plant is used by the Indians of New Mexico for ceremonial ablutions.

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