

Political Charges, Headlines Gave Mccarthyism Impetus

Register-Guard, Eugene, Ore. Tue., Apr. 6, 1954 3A

Probe Led to Pin Charges Down

He actually only discharged 80... The telegram demanded that President Truman revoke his executive order forbidding disclosure of the contents of loyalty files and added: "Failure on your part will label the Democratic party as the bedfellow of international communism..."

Officials Arrest

The Tokyo press... Monday issued for the arrest of two members of the Diet (Parliament) in Japan's shipping...

State of Siege In Nicaragua

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McCarthy named no names. He said he would give them to senators in private or to a committee and that if he were called upon to testify on them before a committee he would appear under oath.

He simply listed his cases as "Case No. 1" and so on through 81. For example: "The man involved in case No. 1 is employed in the office of an assistant Secretary of State. The intelligence unit has shadowed him and found him contacting the members of an espionage group..."

The day after McCarthy's Wheeling speech Scott Lucas, Senate Democratic leader from Illinois, called a meeting of the Democratic Policy Committee. He was for attacking McCarthy with a demand that the Wisconsin senator produce proof.

ADVICE IGNORED. One wily Southern politician recalled later that he advised against such a move. "I sold them then," he said. "Don't do it. All you are going to do is puff this man up and call attention to him. He's nobody in the Senate and has no influence, but if you attack him then you'll only give him stature in the eyes of the people. And that's exactly what happened."

The attack continued thereafter, not subsiding entirely even after Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected President and John Foster became Secretary of State.

As that evening, in 1950, wore on, McCarthy began reading into the Congressional Record what he said were the case histories of Communists or fellow travelers in the State Department. He said he had now compiled a list of 81.

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There was a tendency throughout the investigation to give a far greater amount of time to proving or disproving individual charges than was given to the overall problem of ferreting out disloyal persons.

DEMO ANSWER. Democrats on the Tydings committee also asserted that at the time McCarthy was reading his list of 81 to the Senate only 40 of those names still were employed by the State Department.

Seven of the so-called 81, they said, "were never employed by the State Department and the remaining 33 are no longer in the department, having been separated through resignation, termination or reduction in force."

WINS HEADLINES. All the while the committee was in session McCarthy kept up a drumfire of headline-winning statements. Two involved widely known Americans—Owen Lattimore, then a professor of international relations at Johns Hopkins University and Philip C. Jessup, U. S. ambassador-at-large under a temporary appointment.

On March 26, McCarthy said Lattimore was the man he had described as the top Soviet espionage agent in the United States. McCarthy called Lattimore a key State Department consultant, "chief architect of our Far Eastern policy."

THREE SECRETARIES. Three former secretaries of state—Cordell Hull, James F. Byrnes and George C. Marshall—and the then secretary Dean Acheson denied that Lattimore had had anything to do with construction of Far Eastern policy.

As for Lattimore's employment by the State Department, the Tydings committee majority said he worked for four months in 1945-46 for the United States Reparations Commissions to Japan, lectured to State Department employees once in 1946 and participated for two days in a conference on Chinese affairs in 1949.

The committee Democrats concluded: "We find Owen Lattimore is not now and never has been in any proper sense an employee of the State Department..."

Nearly three years after the Tydings committee report, however a grand jury in Washington on Dec. 16, 1952, indicted Lattimore on seven counts of perjury.

CHARGES DISMISSED. This followed an investigation by the Senate Internal Security Committee into the Institute of Pacific Relations, a private research organization, to determine whether it was infiltrated with Communists and whether it influenced U. S. foreign policy.

In May 1953 four of the seven counts against Lattimore were tossed out by U.S. District Judge Luther Youngdahl. Youngdahl said there even was some doubt as to whether the remaining three indictments would pass the test of materiality.

The chief charge against Lattimore is that he lied when he said he had never been a Communist sympathizer or promoter of Communist interests. After Youngdahl's action, the government appealed to a higher court for reinstatement of the charges. This appeal is still pending.

DENIED CHARGE. Jessup appeared before the Tydings group and under oath swore he was not and had never been a Communist. He presented letters in which Gen. George C. Marshall and Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower vouched for his loyalty and integrity.

Whatever the truth or untruth of McCarthy's charges before the Senate Feb. 20 or his subsequent statements, they provided a rallying point for some Republicans in their attacks on the Democratic administration.

FIRST SUPPORT. On April 16 Sen. Kenneth Wherry (R-Neb.) came to McCarthy's support, one of the first senators to do so. Wherry said that "instead of trying to smear McCarthy, try McCarthy or even whitewash the evidence of Communist influence in the State Department, an effort should be made to 'weed out those Communists.'"

Three days later "Mr. Republican" himself, the late Sen. Robert Taft (R-Ohio), charged that influential forces in the State Department had "refused to regard the delivery of government papers to Communists as a serious offense."

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