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U.S. Communists Try To Convince Public of Change

Editor's note: Following is the first in a series of three articles on the Communist party in the United States. United Press Correspondent Robert F. Jackson, author of the articles, obtained his information from spokesmen for the party, from the Justice Department and FBI and from authorities in Communism.

New York—U.P.—The Communist party is trying to convince you that it is not a puppet of the Soviet Union or a menace to America.

It will unveil this week end in New York a new "red-white-and-blue" look at the first national convention in six years.

The American people will be asked to believe that the party no longer takes orders from Moscow, that today it is an independent movement of "national" Communists, still opposed to capitalism, but dedicated to debate and Democracy.

"We are American Communists—patriots," said the 23,000-word draft resolution, a self-whipping confession of past errors and guileless statement of future tactics, prepared for approval by the Feb. 9-12 convention.

Independence Claimed by U. S. Communists

Moscow says the American Communists are out of line. In October, November and again last Saturday, Soviet Communist organs attacked "right wing" and "national" communists in the United States.

"Nobody tells me what to think," a Communist official told a United Press reporter in a cubbyhole conversation which he said was wire-tapped.

"Nobody gives us orders," said the party newspaper, The Daily Worker.

"There are various roads to Socialism—not just the Soviet way," said the party.

Communists have denounced the brutalities of the late Soviet Premier and hero, Josef Stalin. They have assailed the bloody repression and shooting of workers by Soviet troops in Hungary.

They have argued with each other.

When aging party Chairman William Z. Foster defended the "grim necessity" of Soviet intervention to prevent "Fascism" in Hungary, Daily Worker labor reporter Herbert Singer wrote:

"There is a grim necessity. It is that American Communists understand that they cannot take a serious step toward establishing a new basis for Socialism . . . if they condone or justify the Soviet actions in Hungary."

Crisis No Secret of Party Leaders

For months behind the forbidden doors of floors six and seven of a six-story building on Manhattan's lower west side, party leaders have been painting on the new face which will make no attempt to disguise their crisis.

It is just a mask to avoid further prosecution and to confuse the public? Or is it a sincere break from Kremlin domination? Is it a chance of love or heart?

That is one of the few secrets the Communists still harbor. Questions are a matter of interpretation.

The FBI, the Department of Justice, American labor leaders and many specialists on Communist affairs say that the image of "independence" is merely a carefully-arranged shift in tactics—a sham, Moscow still calls the signals.

On one point there is no argument. The party is in bad shape. Eleven of the top 12 party leaders were convicted in 1949 and jailed in 1951 under the Smith act for conspiring to teach and advocate the overthrow of the U.S. government. Chairman Foster escaped trial due to illness. Five of the 11 are now free.

Under the 1940 Smith act, 145 Communists have been tried in 18 processes, and 103 have gone to jail. The testimony of 27 undercover agents of the FBI who penetrated the party sealed the fate of many.

The Smith act convictions, the exposure of 733 Communist-front publications and organizations, the deportation of subversives, the campaign against security risks—the party itself lists these as the acts which crippled it.

Undermined Themselves by Following Line

But American Communists, with an able assist from the Soviet Union, undermined themselves by slavishly following the Kremlin line.

The Communist invasion of Korea, the disclosure of Soviet spy networks, the flip-flop on Stalin, the Soviet cruelty in Hungary led successively to thousands of desertions. And no new blood is coming in. The overwhelming majority of the American public long ago discredited the party.

In this critical situation, party comrades have turned on Russia and each other. It may sound like a free-swinging debate, but Attorney General Herbert Brownell warned in a memo to President Eisenhower:

"The Communists now propose a new change in the party line, seeking to divert public attention by now claiming allegiance to the United States and purporting to sever their ties with the Soviet Union."

"They will fool no one by this tactic. So long as Communist dictatorships threaten the peace of the world, the Communists and their agents will remain a serious threat to our internal security."

In tomorrow's article, Jackson discusses the possible menace of the Communist party in the United States.

Oregon House Vetoes Plan For 3 Per Cent Sales Tax

Salem—U.P.—The Oregon House of Representatives voted 54-2 today to kill the three per cent sales tax bill proposed by the Interim Committee on Taxation.

The vote came after two Republican moves to refer the bill back to committee and delay final vote until Feb. 15 had failed.

House action supported a committee report recommending "do not pass" from the House Taxation committee.

Democrats, led by taxation committee chairman Clarence Barton, Coquille, called the sales tax a "vicious and regressive" tax.

Republicans, led by Taxation Committee Member Wayne Giesy, Monroe, argued that the bill should be retained in committee until House members had a chance to study it and until Gov. Robert D. Holmes' budget requirements were known.

After moves to delay vote on the measure had failed, many Republicans voted with the majority to kill the bill. They explained that they had voted not in favor of a sales tax but in

favor of further study of any possible revenue source that might be required.

Voting in favor of retaining the sales tax bill were Reps. Edwin E. Cone, Eugene; Wayne Giesy, Monroe; E. A. Littrell, Medford; and Fred Meek, Portland. All are Republicans.

Arthur Fleming Quits As Defense Mobilizer

Washington—U.P.—President Eisenhower today announced the resignation of Defense Mobilizer Arthur S. Fleming.

The president announced at his news conference that he would nominate Gordon Gray, now assistant secretary of defense and former president of the University of North Carolina, to succeed Fleming.

DOW-JONES AVERAGES

New York—U.P.—Dow-Jones final stock averages: 30 industrials 470.81, up 0.55; 20 railroads 146.38, up 0.12; 15 utilities 70.90, up 0.03; and 85 stocks 167.57, up 0.22. Sales today were about 2,110,000 shares compared with 2,610,000 shares Tuesday.



PATRICIA LEEK
Medford High Winner



RICHARD JAMES
Winner at Phoenix

Two Youth Leadership Winners Announced

Miss Patricia Ann (Pat) Leek, a senior at Medford High school, and Richard E. (Jim) James, a senior at Phoenix High school, won the annual Medford Elks lodge "Youth Leadership" contest, Exalted Ruler Dick Woodcock announced today.

Miss Leek is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Leek, 1530 West Main st., Medford, and James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest R. James, 209 Fifth st., Phoenix. Ernest James is superintendent of Phoenix schools.

Runners-up were Sara Joanne

and Robert Elden, daughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Elden, route 1, box 487, Central Point, and seniors at Crater High school: Bruce West, son of Dr. and Mrs. D. K. West, 52 Ross court, Medford, a senior at Medford High; and Dorothy Bean, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Bean, 2194 Houston rd., Phoenix, a senior at Phoenix High school.

Brochures Forwarded

Local winners of the Youth Leadership contest will have their prepared leadership brochures forwarded to the Oregon State Elks' association for judging at the state level and possible entry into national competition.

Awards will be made by the local Elks lodge to the six winners from the jurisdictional area of the lodge which includes seven high schools. They will be made May 2 at the local observance of National Elks Youth Day.

Student entries were judged on their outstanding leadership records as developed in their respective high schools.

Funeral Services Scheduled Thursday For Edith Beck

Funeral services for Mrs. Edith M. Beck of Medford and Jacksonville who died of a heart attack Sunday, will be held in the Conger-Morris chapel at 1 p.m. Thursday. The Rev. George R. V. Bolster of the St. Marks Episcopal church will officiate. Committal will be in Siskiyou Memorial park.

Mrs. Beck was born April 23, 1898, in Willow Springs, Mo. On Nov. 27, 1915, in Tacoma, Wash., she was married to Michael Beck who survives.

Club Membership

She was a member of the Zulema Temple No. 13. Daughters of the Nile, who will participate in the service; Adarell Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Jacksonville; Medford Neighbors of Woodcraft and Mistletoe Camp, Royal Neighbors of America; Lady Elks; Lady Lions and Pochalontas lodge.

Survivors, besides her husband, include a son, Alfred M. Beck, Medford; two daughters, Mrs. Gerald Note, Medford, and Mrs. James Farrar, Central Point Market rd., a brother, Claude L. Payton, Medford, and five grandchildren.

Honorary pallbearers will include Major Franks, Sandy Sanderson, Carl Wilsterwood, Gene Ferrell, Lynn Robertson, Mel McGrew and Charlie Reames; active bearers will be Lou Bittler, Carl Pearson, Earl Scrippler, Louis Bashaw, George Wimer and Ed Pease.

(In the United Press story Monday reporting Mrs. Beck's death, her name was incorrectly given as Elizabeth, an error which Mail Tribune staff writers regretfully failed to catch and correct.)

Wilkes Appointed to Budget Committee

Roy P. Wilkes, 1863 Crater Lake ave., Medford, was appointed to the citizen's budget committee last night by Mayor John Snider. The appointment was approved by the city council.

Wilkes replaces Stanley Stark on the committee. Stark resigned last Jan. 11 due to business pressures, he said.

Wilkes was one of the leaders in the successful Kenwood-Grandview annexation campaign last fall.

Two Attorneys Named City Pro Tem Judges

James Redden and A. E. Piazza, Medford attorneys, were appointed pro tem municipal court judges last night by the Medford city council.

The appointments were approved at the request of Municipal Judge Noreen A. Kelly that pro tem judges be available in the event of illness and vacation period.

Redden is a member of Roberts, Kellington and Branchfield and Piazza is a partner of Harbison and Piazza.

Airing of Troubles Asked by Afro-Asians

United Nations, N.Y.—U.P.—The Afro-Asian bloc asked the United Nations today to "invite France and the people of Algeria" to start immediate negotiations to settle their North African troubles.

Government May Impose Controls Over Inflation

Move Would Be Odius, Ike Declares

Washington—U.P.—President Eisenhower said today that if inflation gets out of hand the government will have to impose controls which he considers odious.

The President made this statement at a news conference in which he also said the United States must step up oil shipments to Europe and that prospects for peace in the Middle East have been improved.

Not American Way

If inflationary pressures continue, Mr. Eisenhower said, the United States would have to move in with controls which he finds not only odious but not representative of the present American way of life.

The President's discussion of inflation was touched off by a reporter's reference to his State of the Union Message. In that message, Mr. Eisenhower urged business and labor leaders "to think well of their responsibility to the American people" before demanding price and wage increases.

Loss of Freedom

Failure "to discipline ourselves" would produce pressure on the government to "redress the failure" and "by that process freedom will step by step disappear."

Today he added that if business and labor do not exercise economic self discipline, the government would have to move in with controls. In that event, he said, this would not be the United States we now know.

(Continued on page 12)

Gold Hill Couple Fined in Court

Thomas K. and Phyllis Hallwood of the Sportman's Tavern, Gold Hill, were fined \$50 each in district court Tuesday after pleading guilty to a charge of possessing, displaying and operating a game of chance.

Confiscated at the tavern were five punchboards and an electric pan, according to district court records.

A warrant has been issued for another tavern owner, according to District Attorney Thomas Reeder.

Other merchandise had been confiscated earlier in the week by sheriff's officers and state police, officials said.

Reeder said confiscation of the merchandise and resulting arrests are a "follow-up" of statements made by Sheriff Howard Gault jointly issued recently to police chiefs in six Jackson county cities. The notices called to the attention of police chiefs reports of gambling devices in general, and punch boards in particular, being operated in taverns.

Merle Oberon To Wed Mexican Fiancier

Hollywood—U.P.—Actress Merle Oberon, 46, announced Tuesday night her engagement to wealthy Mexican financier Bruno Pagliai, 54, and says they will be married within two months.

The dark-haired film beauty revealed the engagement shortly after Pagliai returned by plane to Mexico City following a brief visit here. It will be Miss Oberon's third marriage and Pagliai's second.

Weather

FORECAST: Generally cloudy tonight and Thursday with a chance of a few light showers Thursday. Low tonight 28-30. High Friday 48.

Our Skies Tonight

Highest Yesterday 51
Lowest this Morning 22
Sunrise 7:26 a.m.
Sunset 5:32 p.m.
Moonset Thursday 12:38 a.m.
First Quarter Feb. 7
PROMINENT STAR
Aldebaran, high in south
VISIBLE PLANETS
Mars, near the Moon, is now about as bright as Aldebaran.
Jupiter, rises 9:27 p.m.
Saturn, rises 9:34 a.m.

"Where Do You Suppose They Get Ideas Like That?"



Mike Stearns Elected Student City Mayor

Mayor John Snider last night announced that the mayor of Medford for Student Government Day Feb. 19 will be Mike Stearns, Medford High school senior.

Snider announced winners of the Student Government Day elections held recently at Medford and St. Mary's High schools. Students elected will assume duties of the mayor and eight city councilmen at one meeting.

Elected to student council positions were Jane Barker and Scott Phillips, ward I; Joyce Gregory and Bob Glover, ward II; Diana Russell and Wayne Zimmers, ward III; and Dan

Christenson and Jack Birmingham, ward IV.

Defeated Candidate

Birmingham is a senior at St. Mary's High school, the rest are Medford Senior High school seniors. James Boyd, of Medford High school, was the defeated candidate for mayor.

Elected officers will name students to appointive offices later.

The council adjourned its meeting last night to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19. The meeting was set ahead an hour so the regular council could transact business before the Student Government Day sessions begin at 7:30 p.m. Student mayor and councilmen attended the meeting last night.

Student Government Day is sponsored by the Medford Elks club, and includes schools in the Elks jurisdictional area. In addition to city positions, elections are held in county high schools for a county judge and commissioners.

The project was started several years ago to acquaint high school students with election procedures and knowledge in government.

Michel Scheduled To Enter Plea

Clarence Edward Michel III, 23, of Dillard, was to appear in circuit court this afternoon to enter a plea on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Michel waived counsel and preliminary hearing earlier in district court and was bound over to the grand jury with bond set at \$10,000.

Michel was arrested by state police Jan. 26 near the Eagle Point junction of Highway 62, and admitted shooting Burshe H. Cathey, a highway maintenance crewman, with a .22 caliber revolver about nine miles north of Tiller on the Tiller-Trial highway, state police said.

Cathey, who was taken to Rogue Valley hospital by state police after the shooting, was released Sunday hospital officials said, and is convalescing at home.

Pan American Pilots Postpone Walkout

Chicago—U.P.—A scheduled worldwide strike by about 1,500 pilots against Pan American World Airways was postponed Tuesday night pending the outcome of renewed negotiations.

The Airline Pilots Association called off the walkout, scheduled for midnight Friday, and accepted an appeal by the National Labor Mediation Board for emergency talks.

The new talks in the lengthy dispute over wages and fringe benefits were set for this afternoon in Washington.

Spokane—U.P.—John J. Burke, Butte, Mont., has been elected president of Pacific Northwest Power company.

Little Wonder Girl, Lost Overnight, Found

Grants Pass—U.P.—Two-year-old Dorothy Brown, missing from her Wonder, Ore., home since yesterday afternoon, was found about noon today and rushed to a Grants Pass hospital still alive.

The child was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Brown. She was last seen yesterday playing barefoot in the yard of her home near the Redwood highway. Temperatures in the area dropped to about 20 degrees last night.

At least 400 persons participated in the search for the girl.

Jittery Workers Report Smell of Gas in Buildings

Damage at \$3 Million Following Holocaust

Reno—U.P.—A section of the downtown area near the scene of a series of propane gas blasts Tuesday that destroyed three buildings was ordered evacuated today after jittery workers reported they smelled gas in two buildings.

Fire Chief Karl Evans ordered the evacuation of all buildings on the west side of South Virginia st. between First and Second sts., a block east of the scene of the disaster which killed two persons and injured 42 others.

The dead were identified as Mrs. John Du Pratt, 60, Reno, and Frank Spina, 48, owner of a shoe factory that was gutted in the blast. Spina apparently was blown under a parked car that was nearly leveled by falling walls.

Missing Persons Located

Police reported five persons missing but United Press contacted three of these. A friend of another said his shaving kit was missing from his residence, indicating he had left town briefly.

A report of a fifth missing person was sketchy and officers believed he had been found since no further inquiry had been made.

Police and firemen prevented anyone from entering the evacuated area at 10:45 a.m. (PST) but Evans reported no trace of gas had been found.

City officials estimated the damage at \$3 million.

Casinos Remain Open

Reno's famed gambling casinos remained open for business during the holocaust. One witness, Margaret Jones, an airline stewardess, said patrons in the Riverside hotel "were still gambling and didn't seem concerned at all."

But a block away across the river was a fearful scene. Flames spouted from the windows and roofs of buildings broken glass littered the street and scores of men and women lay in the streets. Many screamed in fright or agony—or both.

After it was all over, firemen were thankful that the toll of dead was not worse. The odor of escaping gas had served to warn many persons away from the area. Scores of persons evacuated several buildings morning before the accident.

Firemen were unable to search the rubble immediately for more bodies. Early today, it was still smoking, such was the intensity of the flames when they raged at their height.

The scene of the holocaust was First and Sierra sts., one block north of the Truckee river.

Nearly 150 Nevada National Guardsmen were ordered to the scene to evacuate an eight-block area and to prevent looting. Eventually, people were allowed back into the area except for the worst damaged blocks.

Police said the blast was the result of a leak in an underground gas main. The leak had gone on for at least an hour and a half before the first explosion, allowing a dangerous quantity of natural gas to collect in the area.

Mrs. Emily Erickson, owner of a Reno building at or near the first explosion, is the sister of a Medford man and mother of a Medford woman, it was reported today.

Tom Reed, route 1, box 429F, now employed at Hubbard Brothers, said Mrs. Erickson, his sister was away from her building at the time of the blast, and for a time there was fear she had been killed.

Mrs. Erickson is the mother of Mrs. Marjorie White, also of route 1, Reed reported.

District Obligations Assumed by Medford

An ordinance providing for the payment of the bonded indebtedness of the Kenwood-Grandview water districts and providing for the disposition of the district's assets was adopted last night by the Medford city council.

The city assumed all obligations, liabilities, assets and functions of the district when the area was annexed last month.

The Medford water commission assumed \$179,769.58 in assets from the districts and \$151,000 in liabilities, according to Robert Lee, water superintendent.

The secretary of state's office notified the city last week that the annexation became effective Jan. 28.

Oregon City—U.P.—Wallace R. Telford, Boring, died in a Portland hospital today. He was former Clackamas county judge.