

Communists Cry As British Open Anti-Filtration Drive

By BARTIN D. PATTIE

LONDON, Dec. 22 (AP) — Britain's ruling labor party launched today a campaign against communist "infiltration and intrigue" within the organization, and the communists immediately branded the drive a U. S.-inspired plot to link this country with France and Italy in an attempt to split the trade unions.

Warning that the communists were out to "sabotage" the government, Labor Party Secretary Morgan Phillips dispatched a letter to all labor groups—including the trade unions—in which he urged that they take the offensive against communist influence within the party.

"The Communist Daily Worker at once retaliated by declaring: 'This attack follows months of preparatory work by the U. S. state department, acting partly through its embassies and partly through paid agents of the American Federation of Labor.'"

In his letter Phillips said that the British communist party had joined the communists' "cold war" against the Western brand of socialism and against the Marshall aid plan for European recovery.

"We can expect communist-inspired attempts to foment discontent in factories and workshops, which may result in slowing down and hampering the production drive," he said.

According to best estimates, based

on recent election returns, there are only about 50,000 communists in Britain, but they hold a number of key trade union posts — especially among groups so vital to Britain's recovery program as the miners, engineers and transport workers.

Even as Phillips' letter was being distributed the Moscow radio launched a new blast against the Marshall plan, declaring its "essence" was "war."

Observers here, meanwhile, expressed belief that the "red belt" states of Europe were moving into a fairly solid bloc to contend for communist domination of the continent — standardizing their programs under Russia's direction to resist western bids for leadership.

Famous Hoosier Writer Passes On

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 22 (AP) — Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for Meredith Nicholson, last survivor of the "golden age" of Indiana literature, who died in Methodist hospital yesterday of bronchial pneumonia after a long illness. He was 81 years old.

Nicholson's varied career embraced fields of journalism, fiction and essay writing and diplomacy, and carried him to Latin America as minister to Paraguay and Venezuela when he was in his seventies.

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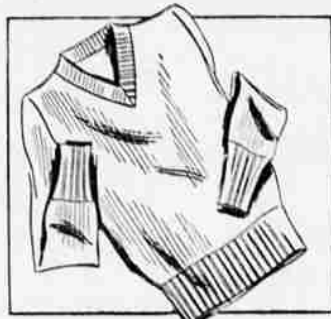
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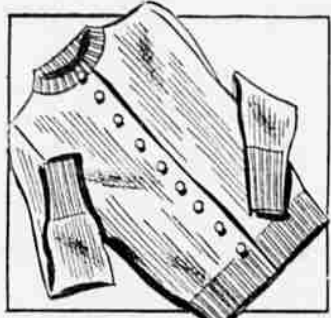
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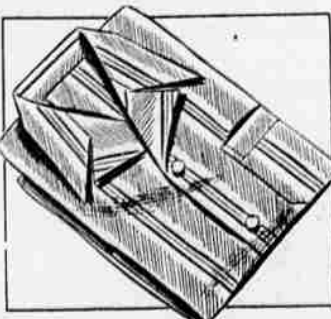
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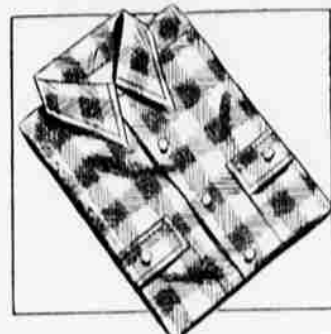
Big and warm—80x90. 4 1/4 pounds weight in rose, blue, cedar, green, peach, satin binding.

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