

Byrnes Quotes Truman As Surprised At White Report

By DONALD SANDERS
WASHINGTON (AP) — James P. Byrnes, secretary of state in the Truman administration, quotes the president as saying he was surprised at an FBI report linking Harry Dexter White to communism.

Byrnes, now governor of South Carolina, said he suggested that Truman withdraw White's nomination to a higher government post.

Friendly Beggars' Clothing Shipped

More than 500 pounds of soap, children's clothing and sewing machines were gathered during Halloween festivities by the Friendly Beggars, children, trick or treaters, representing several schools and churches in the community.

The articles were packed last week in the Congregational Church by Mrs. Paul Layman, Mrs. O. E. Byrnes, Mrs. Robert Faus, Mrs. George Mead, Mrs. Lorn Dalcour, Mrs. Herbert Pollard, Mrs. W. H. Byrnes, Mrs. Harvey Ogard, Mrs. A. Walkey and Mrs. Kenneth Layman.

Merrill Group Plans Bazaar

MERRILL — Plans have been completed for the annual bazaar sponsored by the Merrill Community Club, which will be held in the parish hall Saturday, Nov. 14.

Dinner will be served smorgasbord style from 5 to 9 p.m. with an abundant variety of home-cooked food. Tickets may be purchased from Allar Society members or at the door.

Fancywork, novelties and home-made foods will be on sale at the various booths and entertainment is planned for all. During the evening several gifts will be awarded. Mrs. Tim O'Keefe, president of the Allar Society, is general chair. O'Keefe is chairman of the dinner.

TULELAKE PTA FUN

TULELAKE — The Tulelake high school PTA will entertain, 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14 in the former Veterans' school building at the annual public card party. There will be tables for bridge, ginocchio and canasta. A turkey is to be given away and there will be prizes for high, low, traveling scores. Refreshments will be served. Tickets are available at Hall's Market and the Tulelake Drug Store.

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PAIR DENIES

Two other former members of Truman's official family said last night they did not recall such a report, but Byrnes said he read it, went to the White House and told Truman he was "shocked," and asked what the President intended to do about it.

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Byrnes, in a statement issued at Columbia, S. C., said he saw an FBI report on White's "affiliation with the Communists" the day before the Senate acted on White's nomination by Truman as director

of the International Monetary fund. He said he called at the White House the following day and told Truman, "In view of the charges contained in Hoover's report, I thought he should immediately ask the Senate to withhold action and then withdraw the nomination."

But, Byrnes continued, the Senate already had confirmed the nomination, and he then suggested that Truman should refuse to issue a commission to White. Byrnes quoted the former President as saying he had been told, on a previous occasion, that once the Senate acted he had no alternative but to issue a commission.

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Byrnes continued: "I told him if he should send for White and tell him about Hoover's report, White would never resort to the courts."

Byrnes said he "got the impression" Truman was "disposed to follow that course" but he later learned that White was commissioned.

The South Carolina governor said he did not remember the exact date. White was confirmed by the Senate for the monetary fund job on Feb. 6, 1946. He died in 1948 a few days after swearing before the House Un-American Activities Committee, but he had no connection with a Soviet spy ring.

BROWNELL BACKS UP

Brownell appeared to have backed away slightly on one point from the charges he voiced in a Chicago speech last Friday.

He said then a detailed FBI report on White's "spying activities" was "delivered to President Truman through his military aide, Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, in December 1945. Yesterday he said that report, and a second one on Feb. 4, 1946, were delivered to Vaughan "for the attention of the President." Vaughan has denied knowledge of such reports.

Brownell said yesterday copies of the first FBI report were sent to Byrnes and to these other members of the Truman Cabinet: Atty. Gen. Tom C. Clark, Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal and Secretary of the Treasury Fred M. Vinson. Forrestal and Vinson, who later became chief justice, are

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dead. Clark, now a Supreme Court justice, was not available for comment.

MORE DISTRIBUTION

Brownell said copies also went to Leaky and Braden and to Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, then a lieutenant general in charge of War Department intelligence; and to Fred Lyon, a State Department division chief. Neither Lyon nor Vandenberg, a patient at Walter Reed Army Hospital, could be reached.

Adm. Leahy told a reporter: "I never saw any FBI report on Harry Dexter White as far as I can recollect. If I had, I might have looked at it."

Braden said in New York he recalls seeing an FBI report in late 1945 describing the activities of Alger Hiss and others suspected of Communist affiliations, but he added: "If White's name were in the report I think I would have remembered it."

14 YEARS WITH U. S.

White spent 14 years in government service, most of it in the Treasury Department, where he became an assistant secretary. Brownell said that when Truman announced early in 1946 that White would be named to the monetary fund, "the FBI compiled a special report concerning White and his espionage activities."

Copies of this report, Brownell said, went to Vaughan at the White House, Clark in the Justice Department, and Lyon at the State Department.

"The distribution of these reports concerning White clearly shows that the Truman administration had full and adequate notice of White's spying activities long before he assumed the duties on May 1, 1946, of this most important and sensitive office," Brownell declared.

Truman declined comment, but did remark that "maybe when the right time comes" he would have something to say.

In Little Rock, A.K., Chairman

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