

Committee Hopes To Spotlight Red Activities In N.C.

How active is the Communist party in North Carolina? The House Committee on Un-American Activities may throw some light on this question during three days of public hearings here.

A subcommittee plans to question witnesses for about two hours daily March 12-14. Rep. Francis E. Walter (D-Pa.), who heads the full committee, will be joined here by Reps. Keeney (R-N.Y.) and Willis (D-La.).

The subcommittee has not named the persons it has subpoenaed. But Walter said recently that about 30 probably would be called, and that most of them were mentioned in testimony during the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

Scales was convicted at Greensboro of violating the Smith Act while chairman of the Communist party in the Carolinas and Tennessee. He has appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court from a six-year sentence.

There were only three government witnesses at the Scales trial. Two were native North Carolinians who joined the Communist party with the knowledge and consent of the FBI and reported regularly to it about party activities.

These undercover, temporary agents were Ralph Clontz, Charlotte lawyer, and Charles E. Childs of High Point, a graduate student in physics and lab instructor at the University of North Carolina.

They named more than a score of persons whom they knew as Communists.

Among them were party functionaries sent into North Carolina for some particular job, a few college students at Chapel Hill and elsewhere, a former owner of a book store at Chapel Hill, a farm couple at whose home a school for young Communists allegedly was conducted, and a former UNC instructor whose teaching fellowship was discontinued after he admitted party membership.

The only subpoenaed witness who has had anything to say about it is John V. Myers, who teaches foreign languages and coaches golf at Campbell College. The junior college at Buies Creek is Baptist-supported.

Myers said he was one of the persons identified by Clontz at the Scales trial. Clontz testified that he met a John Myers at Scales' home, and that the man was introduced to him as a Communist.

Myers broke the news of his subpoena in a letter to the Daily Tar Heel Newspaper at the University of North Carolina, where he formerly was a student and an instructor. He said he intended to reveal neither his nor anyone else's political beliefs and associations.

Walter commented later that Myers' announcement "might make it hard to find some of those to be called." But he said he thought that the witnesses could be found.

Clontz and Childs seem logical candidates for subpoenas, but no word about them has come from the subcommittee.

The two former FBI informers did not reveal at the Scales trial everything they knew about the party, of course. And government attorneys made no secret of the fact that they had other prospective witnesses. So the trial testimony offered only a sketchy view of the party in North Carolina.

Clontz testified before the Subversive Activities Control Board in January 1954, naming Scales and others as active Communists in the state.

Ralph Long, formerly a University of North Carolina student from Durham, testified before a long list of alleged Communists in testimony before the Un-American Activities Committee in November 1954.

He told of cell meetings held at the university in 1946-47, adding that communism was "a religion that dominated our lives."

Information about activity in the 1950s was provided by former party organizer Paul Crouch before the Senate Internal Security subcommittee. The committee made this testimony public in September 1953.

Crouch said printing equipment was installed in a Chapel Hill bookstore under the direction of J. Peters, a director and powerful figure in the Communist underground. He named several persons connected with UNC and Duke University, and some of them denied party membership.

The owners of the book store said it in 1950. They would not answer questions about communism put to them by the committee, but later they told reporters, "We have never done anything disloyal."

There is no composite Communist list any more than there is a composite Southerner, or Catholic, or Jew. But from the testimony about the party's work in North Carolina it seems that many of the members:

Were young, or not more than middle-aged; were, if not intellectuals, at least bookish; had some connection, past or present, with a college or university; accepted with little or no complaint party discipline and the difficulties that accompanied carrying out party chores secretly; were suspicious of even closest associates and feared betrayal to the FBI or other authorities.

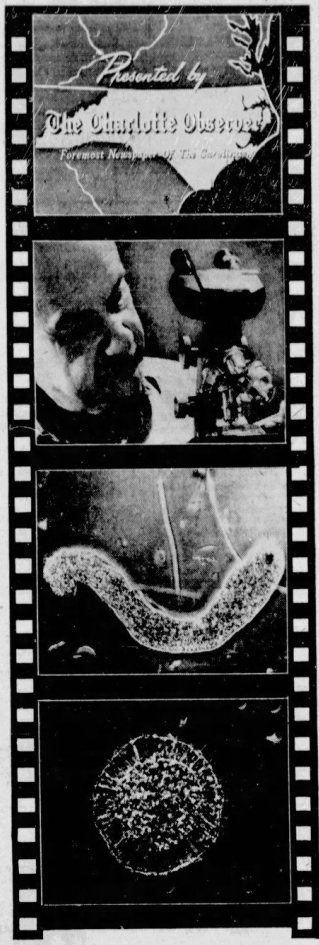
Walter has said that the hearings may well touch on party activities in other Southern states. But for the most part the subcommittee is playing it close to the vest.

And the FBI, which probably has more information about the Communist party than any one else in the state of the Krenig, isn't talking.

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FOR TAR HEEL STUDENTS

Films Take Look At Hidden World



INVISIBLE WORLD — Scientific photography penetrates an invisible world in the March News Magazine of the Screen. (Top) Dr. Roman Vishniac adjusts a specimen beneath the lens of his microscope. (Center) an amoeba is magnified 6,000 times. (Bottom) Internal organs of living protozoa explain their blood circulation.

The March News Magazine of the Screen, shown in North Carolina schools by The Charlotte Observer, features scientific photography.

DR. ROMAN VISHNIAC, the world's foremost photographer of microscopic, brings a hidden world to the screen. He shows millions of plants and animals living in a single drop of plant water. His camera makes it possible for students to follow all the experiments of Vishniac's New York laboratory.

News of the world shows President Eisenhower taking his final medical examination at Walter Reed Hospital.

Argentine crowds pledge support to their new government. Brazil gets a new president. India celebrates its sixth Independence Day.

AND THE UNKNOWN American dead of the Korean War are taken from Japan to Hawaii for burial.

Winter Olympics in Italy are highlighted. From an 18-mile cross-country ski race through Italian bobbleiding to the perfection of figure ice-skating, the camera takes the student.

Historical features show American horse and buggy days, the famous Conestoga Wagon and stage coaches. Rare Chinese porcelain is exhibited and the process of making it explained.

The Observer distributes the monthly film as a public service to education.

Optometrists To Hear Talk

Dr. Edmond Richardson of Hollywood, Calif., past president of the American Optometric Association, will be the guest speaker at a dinner meeting of the Piedmont Optometric Society Monday night.

Monday's meeting is in conjunction with Save Your Vision Week, sponsored nationally by the American Optometric Association. Dr. Richardson, now a full-time lecturer for the extension program of the AOA, will speak on modern concepts of optometric practice.

According to Dr. David Walker, president of the Charlotte Optometric Society, the local society is using every means at its disposal to impress upon the public the necessity for proper visual care.

Religious Play Rehearsals Begin

BANNER ELK—This week the Lees-McCune College cast for "Were You There," a religious drama, went into rehearsal under the direction of Paul Neal, instructor in speech and drama.

The cast expects to present the play for Vespers, Sunday night, 7:30 p.m., March 19.

The cast will be assisted by the College Chorus directed by Mrs. Elma Randall.

On March 10 at Boone, North Carolina the production will be entered in the district event of the North Carolina State drama contest. It will also be given at Crossnore High School, March 16 at 11 a.m.

Charlottians Seek Posts

March 21 will be election day at Greensboro Woman's College. New officers of the student government and campus organizations will be elected.

Last week candidates seeking office nominated themselves. Local nominees include Elizabeth Martin for vice president, Caroline Anderson for national students' association chairman, Donna Lee Snyder for president of the Inter-Faith Council, Pat Hammond for editor of the Carolinian, Jo Coon for editor of the Caroliniad, and Catherine May for chairman of the judicial board.

Running for president of the junior house are Mary Sandra Schulken; Nell Chalmers; Shirley Chalmers; of Dallas; and Janice Little of Concord.

AIR SERVICE BEGUN ACCRA, Gold Coast — 48 Twenty Lebanese flew here this week on the inaugural of the regular Air Liban service between Lebanon and West Africa.

Itching Torture PROMPTLY RELIEVED A doctor's formula—soothing antiseptic Zemo—promptly relieves the itching, burning of Skin Rash, Eczema, Psoriasis, Ringworm and Athlete's Foot. Zemo stops scratching and so aids healing of inflamed skin.

Commissioner To Run Again

SHIRLEY — Hazel Burgardner, county commissioner, has broken the ice for incumbent members of the board by announcing he will be a candidate for reelection subject to the May primary.

Other members of the board—Z. V. Cline, P. L. Rollins, John D. White and Knox Surratt—are expected to be candidates but have not made formal announcements.

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Stanly To Get Radio Station

ALBEMARLE — Approval was granted Thursday by the Federal Communications Commission for the operation of a new radio station in Albemarle.

The Stanly County Broadcasting Company was given permission to construct and operate a station here, using the frequency of 1390 kilocycles. Call letters have not yet been assigned.

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