McGirt Called State's Top Communist

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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CLUES SCARCE IN $14,400 ROBBERY

Red Hunters' Counsel Tags Fish Dresser

House Group Learns Of Winston 'Leaders'

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

A smiling 33-year-old Winston-Salem fish dresser was tabbed the state's No. 1 Communist by the House Committee on Un-American Activities meeting here today.

William Archibald McGirt Jr., who told the subcommittee, "I believe in the Constitution of the United States and what it says without apology," was called the head of the Carolina district of the Communist Party by Counsel Richard Arens.

In the second day of a scheduled three-day probe into Communist activities in the Carolinas, Arens also labeled Warren Williams, a Winston-Salem sheet metal worker with a decorated degree in European history, as now being "one of the top Communist leaders in this state."

FELDMAN TAGGED

A third Winston-Salem man, Eugene Feldman, was named by the subcommittee as sent to the state to "engage in organization and publicity" work for the party and as a former "director of agitation and propaganda" for the Communist Party in Memphis, Tenn., and Alabama.

Testimony was dull today and failed to provide answers for the subcommittee as four uncooperative witnesses were heard in the packed Post Office Building federal courtroom.

Miss Viola Brown, a Negro domestic worker at Winston-Salem Teachers College, also declined to answer questions put to her by the Walter committee.

BINKLEY ILL

William Binkley, on whose farm at Walnut Cove the Communist Party allegedly held a leadership training school four years ago, was called first this morning. However, a physician's statement saying he was ill resulted in his calling this afternoon.

Others who faced the subcommittee this afternoon were Mrs. Mary Major Robertson of Asheville and George Van Camp of Winston-Salem.

McGirt was asked to identify Charles Childs, ex-FBI undercover agent, but declined to do so. Childs named him yesterday as an alleged party member and also as a student at the Walnut Cove School.

PHOTOSTAT COPIES

The Winston-Salem man was faced with photostated copies of alleged party propaganda but declined to answer questions concerning them.

Counsel Arens, noting that McGirt had written a letter to newspapers concerning the hearings in which he used the word "courageous," continually baited McGirt for his "courageous" answers to the group's questions.

Mr. Arens also called P. O. Box 2504 in Winston-Salem as the "mail drop" for the Communist Party in North Carolina.

Mr. Williams, who like the others today, was represented by Miss Rhoda Lake of New York City and James D. Gilliland of Warrenton, was also questioned about his alleged schooling at

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(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin—Martin)

Attorneys Rhoda Laks And James D. Gilliland Flank Witness Warren Williams At His Committee Appearance

'Mysterious' Lawyer Spark For Hearings

By CHARLES KURALT
Charlotte News Staff Writer

"If she's a Communist mouthpiece," a reporter remarked today, "she's the prettiest mouthpiece I've ever seen."

He was speaking of Rhoda Laks, a trim, pretty brunette who sat at the side of witness after witness at the Un-American Activities hearings yesterday and today and gave them legal counsel.

Miss Laks is the nearest thing to a Mystery Woman the hearings have produced.

"The truth is your counsel was sent down here by the Communist Party in New York, was she not?" Committee Counsel Richard Arens asked Nat Bond yesterday.

He declined to answer.

So a reporter asked Miss Laks afterward, "Was the implication that you are a Communist true?"

"The implication was consistent with the committee's general approach to truth," she said.

Miss Laks looks like a 28-year-old Girl Next Door. She said she is a member of the New York City Bar Association, with offices at 615 Columbus Ave.

She has a smile for reporters and parries their questions amiably. The advice she gives witnesses most consistently — when she can be overheard from the reporters' table — is "Refuse to answer."

She gave that advice dozens of times yesterday — to Nat Bond, Bill Evans and Joseph Blake — and again today.

She said she is an "old friend" of William McGirt, one of the witnesses called today and that

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Fish Dresser Bill McGirt Is Also College Graduate

Bill McGirt is a man of many parts.

In the Un-American Activities subcommittee hearing today, he was indirectly accused of being North Carolina's top Communist by Chairman Walter.

In his 33 years, by his own testimony, he has been:

1. A shipbuilder in his native Wilmington.
2. A gatekeeper at Chimney Rock.
3. A library employe at the University of North Carolina.
4. A cafeteria server at UNC.
5. A meat market employe in Winston-Salem.
6. A fish dresser in the Winston City Market.

But, committee counsel Richard Arens charged, his whole life has not been spent so innocently.

Among the Communist front organizations McGirt has belonged to, Arens said, were:

1. The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship.
2. The American Peace Crusade.
3. The Committee For Peaceful Alternatives to the Atlantic Pact.
4. Local 22 of the Food, Tobacco and Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America.

William Archibald McGirt, the fish dresser who ha sa University of North Carolina degree, refused to say whether Arens' charges were true.

McGirt was a sharp contrast from Warren Williams and Viola Brown who preceded him, fearless in the witness table. He handled with his counsel, Rhoda Laks, whom he said he met in New York at a "social engagement" two years ago, and kept a smile on his face almost constantly.

McGirt also took the ribbon for refusing to answer questions. He invoked the Fifth Amendment about iron bars Williams used in 31 terms. Miss Brown used it 20 times.

The hearing room was crowded today, in the audience—in addition to Bill Evans and John Myers, who were uncooperative witnesses yesterday — were Davidson College Professor Harold Fuerst and some of his students; 3 Catholic nuns several servicemen.

Much was made of McGirt's "courage."

"I have never run away from anything in my life," he said. "It looks to me as if you're running away from something this morning." Walter said.

And Arens interjected, "You're courageously hiding behind the Fifth Amendment is that it?"

McGirt answered "I don't see anything wrong with using the Constitution — to do that still permitted in this country."

Southern Manifesto

Non-Signers Tell Why They Didn't

WASHINGTON (AP)—A pair of Tar Heel legislators have offered belief in the Supreme Court and the need for unity in the face of international tensions as their reasons for not signing the so-called racial manifesto.

The document signed by pledged the signers to use all lawful means to reverse the Supreme Court school desegregation decision.

Rep. Charles Raper Jonas (R-NC) added his name to the manifesto yesterday, but Rep. Chatham (D-NC), a nonsigner, had this to say:

"I've been raised to believe the Supreme Court is the final law of the land.

"When the decision came out, I said if they'd give us some time with fairness and good will on all sides we could work it out.

"I feel this resolution may do more harm than good. There is too much passion and prejudice and this will fan that."

DEANE STATEMENT

Rep. Deane (D-NC) issued the following statement explaining why he did not sign the statement:

"In connection with the ability of our people to live together as Americans and as fellow human beings and with reference to the question of concern that now exists Southern members of Congress have tried to reach a God-guided decision on this matter.

"All persons, particularly we of the United States, need to work out our lives together. There is a solution to all our problems. It is not who is right but ultimately what is right. It is my opinion that one group opposing another will not bring the answer. Instead our religious, educational, political and lay leaders should sit down together and in absolute honesty approach the question with understanding minds, seeking what is right. We must approach this question in the remembrance that the time of humanity may rest on how we decide.

"We might also remember our government's position in world affairs involving this global struggle with communism for the minds and wills of men. The main question we face: How can we in America live a quality of life that can win any nation in the world to a God-led freedom and just society.

"This serious warlike actions now taking place in Asia, the Middle East and Africa could involve our own military commitments and our young men. As a member of the Appropriations Committee of the House for national defense I have firsthand knowledge of the critical international situation and urgent military needs of our country. These facts convince me that America faces the greatest test in her history.

"We must find a basis for unity and understanding among our people because in modern warfare men and nations are not thought before they are outfought."

Georgia's Governor Would Help Expellee

ATLANTA (AP)—Gov. Marvin Griffin said today he has offered to "personally guarantee" the education of Leonard B. Wilson, the aggressively pro-segregation sophomore who was expelled by the University of Alabama.

The Georgia governor said his offer to Wilson was to guarantee his education in any institution of his choice.

However, Griffin said: "I believe the people of Alabama will educate him."

In comment, the governor also mentioned that Georgia Tech students "rioted at the mansion but nothing much was said about that." He referred to the demonstration touched off last December by his unsuccessful attempt to prevent Tech from playing in the Sugar Bowl against Pittsburgh, which had a Negro player on its team.

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Nixon Says Ike's Words Just Right

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Exactly right" is Vice President Nixon's word for the short-of-endorsement commendation President Eisenhower has given him, says Chairman Leonard W. Hall of the Republican National Committee.

The GOP chairman, talking with reporters at the White House after a 30-minute conference with Eisenhower yesterday, said Nixon had told him that "a couple of times."

Eisenhower at his news conference last week renewed his frequently voiced praise of Nixon as a man and an associate but stopped short of stating direct support of Nixon for a second as No. 2 man on the Republican ticket.

For himself, Hall repeated what he has been saying all along—that he assumes the ticket will be Eisenhower and Nixon.

"It seems to me that everybody is concerned about the vice presidency except Dick Nixon," Hall said.

"Nixon feels that the President has handled the situation exactly right."

Asked whether he expects convention time will come around before there is any public word on Nixon's request to the Eisenhower request that he chart his own course, Hall said he doesn't know.

"I would say that as far as the (Republican) organization is concerned, Mr. Nixon rates very high," Hall said.

He said he visited Eisenhower to give a general report on operations, including party financing.

Kings Mountain Farmer Robbed

KINGS MOUNTAIN—Clues were scarce today in the case of the daring robbery of $14,400 from a well-to-do farmer's home here.

Robbers stole the amount in $100 bills, silver dollars and diamond rings Sunday from Clarence S. Plonk.

Mr. and Mrs. Plonk were attending St. Matthew's Lutheran Church here when the theft occurred. Deputy Sheriff George Allen theorized that the crime had been well timed, since the Plonks left for church at 10:45 and returned at 12:10.

Upon arriving at his Cherryville Rd. home, the elderly Plonk discovered the back door pried open. He rushed to the storage room where stood the safe he bought for $6 a quarter-century ago.

ROOM STREWN

The room was strewn with documents from the safe, which had been battered heavily. Plonk's inventory disclosed that $12,000 in large bills and silver dollars was gone.

Also missing were diamond rings valued at $2,400, owned by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. John B. Plonk.

Plonk's call to the Cleveland County sheriff's department brought Deputy Sheriff Allen to the scene. Later the sheriff asked the State Bureau of Investigation for help in solving the crime. John Vanderford of the SBI is also working on the case.

SHORT WORK

Officers believe the hard-working thieves required 20 or 30 minutes to accomplish the job. A sledgehammer was used on the old safe's combination. When this failed, a heavy crowbar was employed to peel open the door.

The tools were left on the scene.

Because of the short time involved and the heavy labor, Deputy Sheriff Allen believes that two or three men were involved.

"Maybe it wasn't such a good practice to keep that much money in the house," said Mr. Plonk, "but I have kept larger amounts. I need the cash to handle sales of livestock and other things. I had just taken in most of that money from business."

The robbery was not announced until today because the sheriff's department hoped a silent investigation might help locate the thieves.

Three Killed, Four Injured In Auto Wreck

KINGS MOUNTAIN (AP) — Three persons were killed last night and four seriously injured near here when one automobile collided with another carrying a group of Alabamians from a family gathering at Newport News, Va.

Coroner Ollie Harris said the dead were identified as Garnett C. Jordan, 45, of Gastonia; and Mrs. Charles Anderson, 30, and her daughter, Mrs. Laura Buffaloe, 32, both of Bay Minette, Ala.

Mrs. G. C. Jordan, 40, wife of the dead man, was in critical condition at Kings Mountain Hospital, Harris said, and was not expected to live. In serious condition were the couple's two children, Joyce, 12, and Michael, 4; and Charles Anderson, 37, husband of the elderly dead woman.

Harris said the Jordan car, headed north on U.S. 29, sideswiped one southbound car and collided with the second. The sideswiped car, also in the Bay Minette Party, was driven by Thomas Criswell and carried Mr. and Mrs. Mack Perry of Uriah, Ala. No one in that car was hurt.

Highway patrolmen said Criswell told them the Jordan car crossed the center line before the collision. No charges were made, since both drivers were killed.

Mrs. Buffaloe, whom Harris identified as driver of her car, died 30 minutes after the accident at the hospital here. The other two were killed instantly, including Jordan, identified by Harris as driver of his car.

Union Leader Will Retire

NEW YORK (AP) — Emil Rieve, president of the Textile Workers Union since its founding in 1939, says he will retire for the sake of his health.

Rieve, 64, said yesterday he would not seek re-election at the union's national convention in Washington next May. He said his health would no longer permit the "constant exertion, long hours and nervous strain which the presidency demands."

Rieve said in a letter to locals announcing his retirement that he would retain his vice presidency in the AFL-CIO.

He also said he hoped that after he leaves the union presidency, he "can continue to make a contribution in some post where the organization can avail itself of my experience, without imposing the day-to-day demands faced by the president."

Costly Votes

HOUSTON, Tex. (AP) — The City of Houston paid $75 for the votes of O. W. Fordyce and W. O. Cox on a city bond issue election.

They were the only voters at Precinct 14. The city paid out $42.50 in salaries for an election judge and three clerks to man the polling place. $22.50 to rent the voting machine and $10 rent for the precinct site.

Evening Prayer

Our Father God, forgive us that we lay waste our life through fretful worry, when we might grow strong by taking each day as a gift from Thy hands with which to build a more stately mansion for our soul. May we have that faith that trusts to the end unshakenly in Jesus' name. Amen.

Attack Charged

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—Jordan accused Israeli forces today of attacking a Jordanian border village, killing a 70-year-old woman and injuring three members of the Jordan national guard.

Lt. Col. Mohamed Ishaq, Jordan delegate to the U.N. Mixed Armistice Commission, claimed the attack was made yesterday on the village of Bartira, which straddles the boundary between Jordan and Israel.

Our Weather

Cloudy and cool with occasional light rain today, tonight and tomorrow.
Low this morning—45.
Low tomorrow morning—40.
High yesterday—65.
High today—55.
High tomorrow—55.
Sunrise, 6:37 a.m.; sunset, 6:29 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 2-A

Select FOREMOST Milk Products at your favorite store.—Adv.

What's Inside

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Classified	9-11B
Comics	14A
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Sports	6-8B
Theaters	8B
Women	4-5B

WSOC AIRS COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Station WSOC is broadcasting the hearings of the House Un-American Affairs Committee, Earle J. Glenn, station president said today.

Mr. Glenn said the hearings are being carried in full each day from 10 a.m. to the lunch hour break, and again in the afternoon from 2 p.m. until recess time, usually around 4 o'clock.

U. S. 'Cannot Be Thwarted'

Missile Progress Lauded

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of Defense Wilson declared today that "American capability of inflicting vast destruction" on any aggressor "cannot be thwarted."

He said the United States "is sure to surpass its potential enemies" in some aspects of missile development. But he added that "from time to time they will surpass us in other individual respects."

Wilson said in a speech prepared for the National Press Club that the "real fundamental" in the world today is that the United States now has, and will have for the foreseeable future, "the capability of inflicting vast destruction upon any aggressor anywhere in the world. This capability cannot be thwarted."

"REGARDLESS"

He asserted this American retaliatory force can be applied "regardless of a massive surprise attack on our country and regardless of defensive maneuvers of the aggressor."

In an apparent reference to current democratic criticism of the administration's defense program and claims that the Soviet Union is ahead in new weapons, Wilson declared: "No recent development and no foreseeable development will basically change United States ability to hit back decisively.

The secretary also argued against those like Sen. Russell (D-Ga) who would give the Air Force more money this year to buy bombers and develop missiles. Russell has suggested adding 1½ billion dollars to the defense budget for these purposes.

Without mentioning my administration critics by name, Wilson stated:

"There does not appear to be any need to importantly increase the defense budget above the figures currently before Congress."

Wilson said attempts to make plane-for-plane and like comparisons of U. S. and Russian military strength fail to take into account differing Soviet and American requirements.

SECRETARY WILSON