

Senate Committee Report Deals With Peace Groups

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL
Assemblyman, 46th District

Many people are commenting on the "Twelfth Report of the California State Senate Factfinding Subcommittee on Un-American Activities—1963" which concludes that the John Birch Society is not a secret or a fascist organization. In fact, so many people are commenting on this aspect of the report (that section which deals with the John Birch Society) that I believe someone ought to give "equal time" to some of the other groups mentioned in the report. I now offer space in today's column to the women's peace movements.

On Page 146 of the report, it says, "We have said before, and repeat here, that ANY group Communists can use to further their purpose will be subjected to an infiltration effort. The present world Communist line is one of peaceful co-existence and all peace and disarmament groups will be natural objectives for infiltration. If any of them is so unsophisticated as to admit Communists, their organization will surely be converted into another front."

ON PAGE 152 of the Burns Report, it says: "Leaders of WISP testifying before a congressional committee in Washington, stated recently that their movement was, indeed, open to the Communists and all others who were interested in peace. Obviously, the Communists would be foolish to pass up such an unparalleled oppor-

tunity, and they are far from foolish."

The Burns report also says: "In June, 1962, the Los Angeles WISP Working Committee issued the following statement: 'We must ask ourselves this question: If there are Communists or former Communists

working in WISP what difference does it make?'"

Page 153 of the Burns Report reads thus: "The role of the active and pro-Communist in Women for Peace is more than routine participation. They are calling the shots. Dorothy Ray Healey, an admit-

ted Communist, rose from a young Communist league function to the party's chairmanship in Los Angeles. She outlined party policy as formulated in New York. It called for immediate infiltration of legitimate popular front organiza-

tions and peace groups such as the Friends Society (Quakers), SANE, HELP, and others. Women for Peace had not yet come into being."

ON PAGE 154, the Burns Report says, "On the night of Nov. 1, a few hours after the Oakland and Berkeley demon-

strations, a Women for Peace Rally was held in the Willard Junior High School auditorium in Berkeley. Reports were given on the attitudes expressed earlier in the day by civic officials. Those who had spoken out against nuclear tests were praised. Those con-

trary-minded were castigated and ridiculed. One report that a member of the Berkeley City Council had asked if a woman behind the movement had been cleared by the F.B.I. drew

hoots of derision from a large segment of the audience. Little wonder, considering some of those present."

These are not my words, but verbatim quotations from the report of State Senator Burns' Committee. If I had written the report, I never would have capitalized the words "commu-

nist," "communists," or "communist party."

AS YOU MAY know, I met some of the women peace demonstrators in my office in Sacramento. Many of these women will read this column and may wish to write to me letters thanking me for offering them equal time.

I can assure them, one and all, that each letter, even though not in the nature of expressions of gratitude, will receive prompt and appropriate action.

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Law In Action

Our Anglo-American legal system is among the youngest going back only to the Tenth Century. Roman and Greek law goes back 10 and 15 centuries, and Egyptian and Chinese law, 30 and 40 centuries.

Many world legal systems have influenced our system. The French and Spanish have left a mark on our laws as have American immigrants, with their different social and religious customs.

DESPITE the Dutch, French, and Spanish colonists, England influenced our laws the most since we took over her legal system.

Of all the 50 states only Louisiana has a basically different legal system. From 1763 to 1800 Spain owned Louisiana which gave up French law for Spanish law in 1763. But in 1800 France got Louisiana back, and in 1803 Napoleon sold it to the United States.

WHILE THE U.S. officially wiped out French law, except for criminal law and procedure, Louisianans even to this day keep on using Spanish and French law. In the early 1800's the territory of Orleans was still peopled mostly by citizens of French and Spanish background. Law dealing with personal rights is still mostly of French and Spanish origin.

Easterners settled California, Texas, and other places which had been under Spanish rule. Due in part to hostility toward the Mexican government, they threw out much Spanish law, and the new states adopted the English common law as the basis of our constitution and law.

EVEN SO, some Spanish civil law lives in our community property law system in California, Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arizona, and Washington.

In the years since the treaty California did away with many of the extreme formalities of the English system, combined law and equity courts, and simplified the pleading system which gets a case before a court.

Note: California lawyers offer this column so you may know about our laws.

China Painters Slate Exhibit

The annual summer exhibit of the California China Painting Teachers Assn. will be held Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 3 and 4, at the Lueders Park, Rosecrans Boulevard and Bullis Road, Compton.

The group will give a demonstration on painting china during the two-day exhibit. There will also be an antique display.

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