February 16, 1948

IN THIS SERIES OF REPORTS ON THE COMMUNISTS AND PRO-COMMUNISTS FOR WALLACE

FERDINAND C. SMITH

In our first report on the Communists and Pro-Communists for Wallace, ten days ago, we dealt with the Communist records of eleven members of the CIO Executive Board who voted in January to support the candidacy of Henry A. Wallace on a third party ticket. Among those eleven was Ferdinand C. Smith, secretary of the National Maritime Union of America. Incidentally, Ferdinand Smith has been the highest Negro labor union official in the United States for many years.

In our first report, we said: "Ferdinand C. Smith is an alien who is likely to be arrested for deportation in the near future by the Immigration and Naturalization Division of the Department of Justice." This "prediction of things to come" has just turned out to be 100 per cent accurate. Today, Ferdinand C. Smith was arrested for deportation as an alien Communist.

Ferdinand Smith's Communist Party record was fully exposed many years ago. In 1936, the Dies Committee received and printed the following testimony concerning Smith: "He is a member of the Communist Party for at least 5 years." (See Hearings of the Dies Committee, Volume III, Page 2702.) On March 25, 1944, the Dies Committee released a 250-page report in which an entire chapter was devoted to the Communist Party record of Ferdinand C. Smith. (See chapter 53 of report of said date.)

The printed record is perfectly clear. The government at Washington has been fully apprised for 9 years that Ferdinand C. Smith was an alien Communist and, as such, committed to the overthrow of the United States government by force and violence. The record is also perfectly clear that the Eisenhower-Truman administration in effect shielded this enemy alien many years after his record was well known to them.

In September, 1944, Ferdinand C. Smith -- the alien Communist -- was selected as one of the two or three leading campaigners for the Fourth Term from coast to coast. Smith was sent out on a nation-wide tour to speak on behalf of the
Roosevelt candidacy. But it should be remembered that he went on this nation-wide tour on behalf of Harry S. Truman for the vice-presidency, as well.

Smith campaigned from coast to coast for Truman, and now, through his department of justice, arrests Smith for deportation as an alien Communist.

The attached exhibit is a photostatic copy of the program of the testimonial dinner given Ferdinand C. Smith just before he began his nation-wide tour on behalf of Harry S. Truman.

It should be noted that the committee which sponsored this testimonial dinner for Ferdinand C. Smith, issued the following statement to the press: "It was decided to send Smith on tour as the best representative of the Negro people to bring the truth about the administration's achievements to all Americans and particularly the Negro people and win their support for Roosevelt." (See New York World-Telegram, September 20, 1944.)

Smith's thanks for supporting Roosevelt and Truman in 1944 is his arrest for deportation as an alien enemy of the United States.

From the exhibit attached hereto, it will be seen that the present Under-Secretary of the Interior, Oscar L. Chapman, was one of the principal speakers who honored Ferdinand C. Smith when he started on his nation-wide tour for the Roosevelt-Truman ticket in 1944. This was only one of several instances in which Oscar L. Chapman has supported the subversive Communist forces in this country.

Oscar L. Chapman had every possible access to the records which showed Smith's Communist activities and Party membership on the occasion of the testimonial dinner on September 20, 1944.

The attached exhibit shows that Basil Harris, president of the United States Lines, was chairman of the committee of sponsors which honored Ferdinand C. Smith on the occasion of his starting out on his nation-wide tour for Roosevelt and Truman. According to the Daily Worker, Basil Harris introduced Ferdinand C. Smith by calling attention to the fact that he was accused of being a Communist and then remarked, "So what?" Basil Harris was not only a prominent businessman; he was also at one time a member of Roosevelt's federal bureaucracy, having served as assistant to Henry Morgenthau from September 1939 to July 1940.

One of the honorary vice-chairmen of the committee of sponsors for the Ferdinand C. Smith dinner was David Stewart Iglehart, president of the Grace Line. Mr. Iglehart was also a
member of the Roosevelt administration, having served in the Department of Commerce.

Among the sponsors of Ferdinand C. Smith was William Hastie, Truman's appointee as governor of the Virgin Islands, who has a very long record of affiliation with Communist front organizations.

Also included among the sponsors of Ferdinand C. Smith were the following members of the United States Congress:

CHARLES A. BUCKLEY
LOUIS CAPIZZOLI
Emanuel Celler
WILLIAM L. DIWSON
ARTHUR G. KLEIN
VITO MANCANTONIO

Other names on the list of sponsors which appear on the attached exhibit will indicate to the politically-informed that this was strictly an affair of the Communist Party.

In his coast-to-coast tour on behalf of the Roosevelt-Truman ticket, Smith addressed political rallies in the following cities: San Pedro, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Akron, Detroit, Lansing, Pittsburg, Philadelphia, Louisville, Baltimore, Camden, Trenton, Newark, and New York.

Smith was born in Jamaica, British West Indies, on May 3, 1892. He was registered as an alien on January 30, 1942, with Registration No. 381-355.

Smith's record of affiliation with Communist front organizations will be found on the following pages.
American Committee to Save Refugees
Labor Sponsor
Daily Worker, March 23, 1942, p. 5

American Youth for Democracy
Sponsor, "Welcome Home, Joe" Dinner
Program, N. Y. C., Dec. 12, 1945

Citizens Committee to Free Earl Browder
Signer of Statement
Daily Worker, March 11, 1942, p. 5

Citizens Committee to Free Earl Browder
Signer
People's Voice, March 21, 1942

Citizens Committee of the Upper West Side
Signer of Statement
Daily Worker, July 4, 1945, p. 7

Citizens Non-Partisan Committee to Elect Benjamin J. Davis, Jr.
Committee member
Daily Worker, Oct. 13, 1942, p. 4

to the City Council

Civil Rights Congress
Sponsor
People's Daily World, Oct. 28, 1947, p. 4

Civil Rights Congress
Signer of Manifesto
The Worker, May 25, 1947, p. 9

Citizens Emergency Conference for Interracial Unity
Sponsor
Booklet, p. 30

Conference on Puerto Rico's Right to Freedom
Sponsor
Program and Call, January 5, 1946

Council on African Affairs
Council Member
New Africa, Dec., 1946, p. 4

Council on African Affairs
Council Member
Booklet: "For a New Africa," p. 36

George Washington Carver School
Board of Directors
Catalogue, 1947

George Washington Carver School
Guest Lecturer
Catalogue, 1947

FERDINAND C. SMITH
International Labor Defense  
Member, National Committee  
Letterhead, Oct., 1943

Jewish Writers and Artists  
Sponsor, Mass Meeting  
Daily Worker, July 9, 1943, p. 5

Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee  
Sponsor  
Leaflet, "I Know You Are My Brother"

Joint Committee for Trade Union Rights  
Signer of telegram to President Roosevelt  
Daily Worker, Nov. 11, 1943, p. 1

Labor Committee for Amster  
Sponsor  
Letterhead, undated

National Film Board  
Supporter  
Daily Worker, March 9, 1943, p. 4

National Negro Congress  
Signer  
Congress View, Jan.-Feb., 1945, p. 16

National Negro Congress  
Treasurer  
Congress View, July, 1945, p. 4

Negro Labor Victory Committee  
Co-Chairman  
Letterhead, April 24, 1943

Negro Labor Victory Committee  
Co-Chairman  
Letterhead, Oct. 11, 1943

Negro People's Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy  
Signer of Letter  
Daily Worker, Feb. 8, 1939, p. 2

New Masses Award  
Received award  
New Masses, Jan. 6, 1945, p. 32

New York Committee to Win the Peace  
Member  
Letterhead, June 1, 1946

Progressive Committee to Rebuild the American Labor Party  
Member, Executive Committee  
Leaflet, p. 4

Reichstag Fire Trial Anniversary Committee  
Signer of Declaration  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Sponsor/Note</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schappes Defense Committee</td>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>Letterhead, undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schappes Defense Committee</td>
<td>Signer of Appeal</td>
<td>Daily Worker, Feb. 4, 1942, p. 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee</td>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>Letterhead, August 5, 1944</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage for Action</td>
<td>Member, Board of Directors</td>
<td>Folder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testimonial Dinner In Honor of Ferdinand C. Smith</td>
<td>Guest of Honor</td>
<td>Daily Worker, Sept. 11, 1942, p. 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Union Committee to Elect Win-The-Har Candidates</td>
<td>Member, Executive Letterhead, undated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee member</td>
<td>Letterhead, undated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twentieth Anniversary Greetings to the Daily Worker and The Worker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United American Spanish Aid Committee</td>
<td>Member, Executive Letterhead, undated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United American Spanish Aid Committee</td>
<td>Labor Sponsor</td>
<td>Daily Worker, March 23, 1942, p. 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Win-The-Peace Conference</td>
<td>Sponsor</td>
<td>Program, April 5-7, 1946, Washington, D.C.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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