February 23, 1948

LEO ISACSON

The newspapers have carried many stories and editorialized at great length on the surprising election of Leo Isacson to the House of Representatives from the 24th (Bronx) Congressional District of New York.

It is generally known that Isacson is Henry Wallace's man, and that the latter delivered a major campaign speech on Sunday before election. Both Wallace and Isacson, as well as many others, accepted in advance the view that Isacson's vote would be a test of Wallace's third party strength.

Isacson has been variously labelled a "left-winger," a "radical," an ALFer, and as sympathetic to the Communist Party line. A number of newspaper stories also called attention, in advance of election day, to the fact that the Communist Party's Daily Worker was devoting an extraordinary amount of space to the support of Isacson's campaign.

The fact which has not been emphasized is that Isacson is extremely close to the Communist Party. It is, indeed, a card-holding member of the Party. For that reason, it is important that Isacson's Communist record be documented for future reference. Future references will undoubtedly become important in nationally as well as locally -- inasmuch as the Congress of the United States now has two stations of Keys in its membership instead of one (10% percent). There can be no doubt that whatever record Isacson makes in the House of Representatives will be an unwinding record of support for the Communist Party line.

In 1944, Leo Isacson was elected to the New York State Assembly. In the Assembly, he made a record which was completely subservient to the Communist Party line. For four years, the Daily Worker has plugged Isacson in issue after issue.

It should be noted that Isacson was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1944 with the endorsement of the Republican Party members as well as with the whole-hearted support of the Daily Worker and the Communist Party. Nor is this the only instance of such Republican endorsement of pro-Communist candidates in recent years. Kenneth Sherbell and San Kaplan, both
pro-Communists, were elected to the New York State Legislature in 1946 with the endorsement of John R. Crews, Republican leader in Brooklyn. For references to Republican endorsement of Isaacson in 1944, see the Daily Worker, June 9, 1946, page 5, and June 11, 1946, page 5.

Exhibit #1 attached hereto is a photostat from the Daily Worker of February 1, 1946, page 6. This photostat shows that Leon Strauss was the active manager of Leo Isaacson's campaign for Congress in the 24th New York Congressional District. Strauss, according to this exhibit, called for 2000 canvassers instead of the 1000 who had already volunteered. Strauss is identified in this exhibit as the secretary of the American Labor Party in the Bronx. Incidentally, he was able to get 2000 canvassers by calling upon Communist Party headquarters.

Leon Strauss is an avowed member and leader of the Communist Party, as well as secretary of the American Labor Party in the Bronx. This fact is established by exhibit #2, which is a photostat from the Daily Worker of April 9, 1946, page 7.

It is, therefore, established by the record that Isaacson's and Wallsley's leader in the Bronx (Leon Strauss) is a member of the Communist Party.

On December 14, 1945, Leo Isaacson was a featured speaker for the American Youth for Democracy. Exhibit #3 attached hereto shows that his fellow speakers were John Gallo, Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Lillian Gates, and Leon Wolfsy. These four other participants in the AYD program are all avowed members of the Communist Party. The AYD is the present-day version of the Young Communist League. A special report on the AYD as a subversive Communist front was issued by the Thomas Committee in the summer of 1947. Furthermore, Attorney General Tom Clark listed the AYD as a subversive Communist organization in his list which was released on December 4, 1947.

According to exhibit #4, Leo Isaacson was a speaker under the auspices of Jewish Life at a mass rally on February 1, 1946, Jewish Life is an avowed Communist Party publication. It is issued monthly by the Morning Front Hall Association. Isaacson's fellow speakers on the occasion were Alexander Bittelman, Albert E. Kahn, Vito Mercantone, and Moses Miller. All but Mercantone are members of the Communist Party, i.e., publicly avowed members. There is no doubt about where Mercantone stands. Alexander Bittelman was recently taken into custody for deportation as an alien Communist.

Isaacson's connections with Communist front organizations have not been numerous. In this respect, he has played a cautious game. But, his record of Communist sympathies and the record of the Communist Party's support of his political aspirations are established beyond possibility of dispute.
According to the Daily Worker of February 9, 1948, page 7, the following persons joined the Independent Citizens Committee to elect Leo Lissack:

Paul Jobson
James V. Sherman Wise
Jesse Colon
William S. Court
Harry Grundfest
Mrs. L. C. Perera, Jr.
Vito Markantonio
Ada B. Jackson
Dean Olson
Uta Hagen
Mrs. Keckham Holt
Larry Keobie
Canada Lee
Kay Levy
Eugene F. Connolly
Robert O'Connell
Ephraim Gross
Johannes Steel
George D. Cannon
Rockwell Kent
Howard Fast

It would be difficult to find a better way of placing Communist label on any candidate than to have the above named give him their endorsement.