April 25, 1947

My dear Mr. Thomas:

I read with interest your letter of April twenty-third which came after I had read it in the newspapers.

I think you will find the Attorney General will do his duty as it should be done and in the interest of the welfare of the United States.

I am glad to have your views on the situation.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Honorable J. Barron Thomas, x
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

On October 7, 1946, I wrote to Attorney General Tom Clark, urging him to "immediately crack down on the Moscow-directed fifth column operating in the United States." In this communication, I set forth five specific violations of the Federal Statutes which I considered the communist leadership in this country to be in violation of. Again on February 10, in my letter to the Attorney General, calling upon him to proceed against Gerhart Eisler for various crimes against the United States, I reiterated my request of October 7, and pointed out that I thought action was long overdue, and that it was my sincere hope that prosecuting action would be forthcoming.

On March 31, I transmitted to the Attorney General a copy of a report which had just been issued by the Committee on Un-American Activities entitled "Communist Party of the United States as an Agent of a foreign power." In my letter of transmittal, I pointed out that this report contained documentary evidence which showed that the Communist party and its officers were in violation of the Alien Registration Act (52 Stat. 651) and the Voluntary Act (50 Stat. 1201). I closed my letter in the following language: "I again urge you to take prompt action against this fifth column within our midst and that they be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

The Communist menace in America is serious. It is no myth, and it is no "bugaboo." As a member of the Committee on Un-American Activities for eight years, and as its present Chairman, I am convinced of this, just as is Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is a menace that is so serious, that unless it is dealt with by the law enforcement agencies of the Federal Government, the time may well arrive when the very security of our country will be impaired by this fifth column within our midst.
April 23, 1947

It is for this reason that I address you as the President of the United States, to directly inform you of the apprehension which exists among many members of Congress, over the failure of the Department of Justice to prosecute the many serious violations of the Federal Statutes by these conspirators. In substantiation of this point, I respectfully refer you to the Congressional Record of yesterday, April 22nd.

It will be sheer folly to spend $50,000,000 to purge the Government of communists, or $150,000,000 to stop the communists in Greece, if our Department of Justice is not going to face this issue squarely at home. The immunity which this foreign-directed conspiracy has been enjoying for the past 15 years must cease.

I feel that now is the time for you to step in and take a hand in this matter and direct your Attorney General to throw the full weight of his Department behind an effort to bring these criminals and conspirators before the bar of justice.

Yours respectfully,

[Signature]

J. PARRELL THOMAS, Chairman.