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September 20, 1962

Memorandum from David Hunter

Subject: Communist Speakers on State Property.

On September 19, 1962, Governor Edmund G. Brown made the following statement during the course of his address to the State Bar Convention in Los Angeles:

"I don't believe we should permit any subversives to speak on our campuses. I don't see any reason why we should give them a platform from which to spread their poison."

On March 21, 1961, at his press conference, Brown was asked his views concerning some callers of that morning who were protesting the scheduled appearance on the Berkeley campus of U.C. of Frank Wilkinson, who had been identified under oath as a member of the Communist Party. In reply to the question, Brown said:

"Well, my view of Mr. Wilkinson and anybody of that nature is that he should be permitted to speak. In the event he violates the law after what he says, why, there are plenty of laws to take care of the situation. But I believe in letting people speak in connection with these things...I don't believe in prior censorship of the press, the movies, or speakers...They had that picture, 'Operation Abolition', on the campus last week. Now, we have Mr. Wilkinson on the other side. We give these people -- I think we pay too much attention to them."

On September 19, 1962, Edmund G. Brown further stated at the meeting of the State Bar Association:

"There hasn't been a Communist speaker on a university campus in the four years I have been Governor."

On May 16, 1960, Archie Brown spoke in Griffith Hall on the Berkeley campus of the University of California.

Archie Brown is District Committee Chairman of the Communist Party in charge of trade union matters. He has been identified in the California Senate Fact Finding Subcommittee on Unamerican Activities as follows:
1948 Report, page 213: A co-secretary of the Labor Commission (of the Communist Party.)

1951 Report, Page 24: On May 8 and 9, 1947, he was a delegate to the First National Encampment of the Communist Veterans of World War II in Washington, D.C., and at that time he was also Trade Union Director.

On February 22, 1961, Anne Braden addressed a noon meeting in Dwinelle Hall on the Berkeley campus of the University of California.

In sworn testimony on October 28 and 29, 1957, before the U. S. Senate Internal Security Subcommittee of the Committee of the Judiciary, both Anne Braden and Carl Braden were identified as functionaries in the Communist Party and responsible for the recruitment of Mrs. Alberta Ahearn into the Communist Party. Mrs. Ahearn was actually an under-cover FBI informant who made the sworn statement which was published on pages 36 and 37 in the Subcommittee document "Communism in the South".

Harry Bridges, on March 17, 1960, spoke at a noon rally in Wheeler Hall, University of California, Berkeley campus.

On December 14, 1960, Dr. Holland Roberts spoke at noon in Wheeler Hall.

Dr. Roberts was the School Administrator of the California Labor School, a Communist front organization. The Los Angeles Times on January 22, 1956, reported that Ernestine Gatewood, a self-acknowledged Communist Party member, testified before the U. S. Subversive Activities Control Board and identified Dr. Roberts as a Communist. She said further that Party conferences were held in the California Labor School by Dr. Roberts. The California Senate Investigating Committee on Education devoted 19 pages of its 1959 report to his various Communist front activities.

On March 22, 1961, Frank Wilkinson spoke in the Wheeler Hall auditorium, U. C. Berkeley campus.

Frank Wilkinson has been identified as a member of the Communist Party by Anita Bell Schneider on December 7, 1956.

In July, 1948, Wilkinson appeared before the House Committee on Unamerican Activities and refused to answer any questions asked by the committee. Mr. Wilkinson was cited for contempt. (See Page 85, House Committee on Unamerican Activities Report 1960.)

Frank Wilkinson is identified in the 1960 Report of the House Committee on Unamerican Activities on Page 85 as "one of the top Communist agents assigned to the 'Operation Abolition' campaign."

In September, 1952, the Los Angeles City Housing Authority (for which Frank Wilkinson worked as information officer) authorized its Executive Director, Howard L. Holtzendorff, to write to Senator Hugh M. Burns, Committee Chairman of the California Senate Fact Finding Committee on Unamerican Activities:

"This will confirm our long distance telephone conversation of Wednesday, September 3, 1952, wherein this agency officially requested that your honorable committee investigate the public charges recently made concerning the alleged affiliation of Mr. Frank Wilkinson, an employee of the Housing Authority, with the Communist Party.

"I am enclosing a copy of a letter of even date to Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Attorney General, wherein official request was made of that office for an investigation of the same charges as they relate to a possible violation of the Oath of Allegiance which this employee executed pursuant to chapter 8, division 4, title 1 of the Government Code of the State of California."

The California Senate Fact Finding Committee in 1953 published the following conclusion on Frank Wilkinson after extensive investigation:

Page 128. "Wilkinson's Communist affiliations apparently began when he was a student at U. C. L. A. and continued thereafter until he moved progressively from one Communist unit to another. As his Party contacts broadened, he came into contact with Los Angeles functionaries who saw in him an idealist who could be extremely useful as a contact with influential non-Communist persons in Southern California and also as an active recruiter in the housing authority. "

Wilkinson was later identified as a member of the Communist Party and served a term in Federal prison for contempt of Congress.

On February 16, 1962, Frank Wilkinson again appeared on the University of California campus at Berkeley, this time in a room of Wheeler Hall.

On October 10, 1960, John Howard Lawson spoke at Dwinelle Hall, University of California at Berkeley, at 4:15 PM. He is one of the renowned "Hollywood 10".

He is identified by the 1949 California Senate Unamerican Activities Report as "a bona fide, iron-disciplined Communist Revolutionary".

On November 23, 1960, John Howard Lawson appeared on the U. C. L. A. campus under the sponsorship of the American Civil Liberties Union to "tell his story".

On May 1, 1961, Frank Pestana appeared in Wheeler auditorium in U.C., Berkeley, at a noon rally. Pestana is identified by the California Senate Unamerican Activities Report as being an attorney who formerly practiced in Alameda County, where he was connected with the professional branch of the Communist Party in that county.