

Secret Leader Of Communists In America Is Identified

SISTER NAMES 'HANS BURGER' AS RUSS AGENT

Says He Talks for Kremlin, Directs Red Activities of Hemisphere.

By FREDERICK WOLTMAN

Supra-Editorial Staff Writer

NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—The New York World-Telegram, a Scripps-Howard newspaper, today established the identity of the man described by Louis F. Budenz, as a secret agent of the Kremlin, "who directs all Communist activities in the United States."

He is Hans Berger, an Austrian, a former member of the German Communist party's central committee and an agent of the Communist International since 1918. His real name is Gerhard Eisler.

Mr. Budenz is a former editor of the Communist Daily Worker and later a member of the Notre Dame university faculty. He abandoned communism a year ago to become a Catholic. He now teaches economics at Fordham university here.

Landis Wants to Hear Him

After Mr. Budenz made his statement, there were demands by members of the congressional committee investigating un-American activities—including Rep. Gerald Landis (R. Ind.)—that he identify the secret agent before that committee.

Mr. Berger's identity was confirmed by his sister, Ruth Fischer. She was floor leader of the Communists in the German reichstag and a member of the presidium of the Comintern until she was expelled from the Communist movement on orders from Moscow in 1925.

Brother Writes Movie Music

Miss Fischer today described her brother as "head of the German Communists in the western hemisphere" and "one of the key figures in the American Communist party."

He is also the brother of Hans Eisler, exiled German composer who writes movie music in Hollywood. In 1940 the composer received a \$20,000 experimental grant from the Rockefeller foundation to score sound tracks. One of them was the Donald Duck short, "His Better Self." Mr. Eisler's latest screen credit was for the Cary Grant-Ethel Barrymore film, "None But the Lonely Heart."

'Never Shows' His Face

Mr. Budenz described the unnamed Kremlin agent as "still the boss" of the American Communists. "This man never shows his face," said Mr. Budenz. "Communist leaders never see him, but they follow his orders or suggestions implicitly. The average American Communist never heard of him."

Mr. Budenz offered to disclose the man's name but only to an official agency and under oath. He did, however, refer to two authoritative pronouncements by the unidentified individual which were published in the Communist magazine in 1943 and 1944. The magazine currently is named Political Affairs.

A check by the World-Telegram showed the writer was Hans Berger.

Mysterious but Potent

The name recalled to this reporter the time a Hans Berger was pointed out to him at a Communist rally here early in June, 1945. At the time, Mr. Berger was described as a mysterious, but apparently potent force in the American Communist movement. He occupied an end seat in the front row and frequently went backstage to consult party officials on the platform.

Miss Fischer said today she has had "nothing to do" with her brother for at least 15 years.

Mentions Brother Frequently

Now aggressively anti-Communist, Miss Fischer edits a confidential mimeographed bulletin, "The Russian state party; newsletter on contemporary communism."

A perusal of her bulletin over recent years reveals she referred to Hans Berger on numerous occasions. Once she mentioned him as a "Moscow agent in Mexico and New York."

On another occasion she wrote of "Berger's cynicism and adaptation to all zig-zags of modern Stalinism. 'I don't think he is an American citizen,' she said in answer to a question."

Asks Law to Ban Display of 'Undies'

SANTIAGO, Chile, Oct. 17 (U. P.).—The trend in shop window displays of lingerie prompted Santiago Martinez to write a letter to the editor suggesting that steps be taken.

His letter, published in Ultimas Noticias, said:

"Each store strives to outdo the others with their almost naked manikins exhibiting very private feminine garments in the most enticing poses and voluptuous positions."

"The time has come for a municipal ordinance to put a stop to it."

Hoosier Politics—

RED PERIL HIT BY TOWNSEND

State Talks Range From Communism to Silver.

Hoosier senatorial candidates ranged from communism to the generation-old issue of silver in campaign speeches last night.

Candidates from both parties were busy over the state as campaign leaders dug in for the final two weeks before election.

Townsend Belittles

Communism Threat

EVANSVILLE, Ind., Oct. 17.—America is in no more danger of communism than of being overrun by rattlesnakes, Democratic senatorial candidate M. Clifford Townsend said here last night.

"Communism thrives on hunger, slum housing, unemployment, bank failures and general depression," Mr. Townsend said in reply to charges the Democratic party is Communist dominated.

On the subject of bureaucracy, Mr. Townsend told Democrats here that Republicans, while promising to cut down the number of bureaus in Washington, have "added 23 new ones in Indiana."

Truman-Silver Policy

Attacked by Jenner

GREENSBURG, Ind., Oct. 17.—William E. Jenner, Republican candidate for U. S. senator, harked back to the days of "silver-tongued" oratory here last night with an attack on administration silver policies.

By signing a bill in August to increase the price of silver to 90½ cents an ounce, Mr. Jenner charged, President Truman "gave his blessings to a selfish, inflationary raid on the pockets of the American public."

"The beneficiaries were a few wealthy mine-owners, a few thousand miners and the Democratic party," he said.

Shortages Rapped

By Emmert at Rally

MOORELAND, Ind., Oct. 17.—Soap shortages have forced Americans back to "saddle-bag days," Attorney General James A. Emmert told a Republican rally here last night.

"Under the New Deal policy of scarcities of everything," the G. O. P. nominee for the state supreme court said, "we must reach down into the saddle-bags of a century ago and fashion our own soap out of lye."

"We wonder," he added, "how long it will be before the New Deal will allow soap back in the stores."

MARINE VETERAN

RE-ENLISTS IN ARMY

Darrell E. Brown, an ex-marine sergeant, today was the 3000th person to enlist here in the regular army because he was "fed up with all the shortages and housing problems of civilian life."

A veteran of the northern Solomon Islands, Okinawa and the Philippine campaigns, he was given the rating of sergeant in the air corps. The sergeant has been living at 3707 E. North st. while his wife and daughter are in California.

50 TEACHERS STRIKE

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 17 (U. P.).—Teachers at nearby Rankin borough schools went on strike today to enforce demands for a \$400 yearly increase and paid vacations. About 50 teachers were involved.

RITES TOMORROW FOR MRS. MICHAEL

Mrs. Bessie R. Michael, 1931 Carrollton ave., a graduate nurse and long time resident of Indianapolis, died yesterday at Methodist hospital. She was 64.

Born in Waynesboro, Pa., Mrs. Michael moved to Indianapolis 40 years ago. A graduate of the City Hospital Nursing school, she was a practicing nurse until 1918. She was a member of Calvary Tabernacle church.

She is survived by her husband, Stacy E. Michael; three sisters, Mrs. Mary Ferguson and Mrs. Lottie Feltner, Secbey, Mont., and Mrs. Lella Bruner, Royal Center, Ind., and a brother, George Bell, Lucerne, Ind.

Services will be at 1:30 p. m. tomorrow at the Moore Mortuaries Peace chapel in charge of the Rev. Raymond Hoekstra. Burial will be in Crown Hill.

LOCAL BRIEFS

The Allied Florists association of Indianapolis will hold its regular monthly business meeting at 8 p. m. tomorrow at the Smith & Young Co., 220 W. New York st. Plans for the National Chrysanthemum show scheduled to be held in Mural temple on Nov. 8, 9, and 10 will be discussed.

The Christian Park Community Center will open its fall term of tap dancing classes Oct. 23, under the supervision of Miss Carolyn Ganganey.

NOT AFRAID OF NAME ST. PAUL, Minn., Oct. 17 (U. P.).—Mrs. Truman Wallace has been named secretary of the 10th ward Republican organization.

DEADLINE IS NOV. 4 ON PROPERTY TAX

The deadline for payment of the fall installment of Marion county property taxes is Monday night, Nov. 4, County Treasurer Frank Huse warned today.

Taxpayers were urged by Mr. Huse to make the payments this week and next to avoid the inevitable jam of last-minute payers.

You may make your payments by mail if you send to the county treasurer a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a letter listing your name, address and whether payments are due on personal property or real estate or both. The address must be that which you had on March 1, 1945.

Penalties amounting to eight per cent of your taxes will be imposed if payments are delinquent.

Labor's Part in Community Fund Praised

More than 10,000 labor union members serve year-round as volunteer workers in community chest activities in the United States.

Walter Leckrone, general chairman for the Community Fund's annual campaign next month, made this statement at a meeting of the Labor Fellowship club yesterday at Claypool hotel.

He cited records of the Labor League for Human Rights, A. F. of L., which showed that labor participation in community chest activities "has grown enormously in the last five years."

B. R. Barnacio, secretary of Central Labor union, said president of the club, informed the group that the union has endorsed the campaign for a goal of \$1,328,000 this year and has pledged wholehearted support to the drive.

Mr. Leckrone referred to a recent statement by William L. Green, A. F. of L. president, who said: "Wages and employment conditions, important as they are, must be supplemented by essential health, welfare and recreational facilities."

Mr. Leckrone declared: "These essential services are provided by the 46 Red Feather agencies of the Community fund in Indianapolis and Marion county."

"Labor has recognized this fact. This is one of the reasons why labor realized that the Community fund is a unifying force here, which brings together all groups of people to plan and work for a common goal."

"Labor believes in support of the fund, and I am sure there will be no lessening of this support now, in the most critical year of the fund's history."

"The Community fund is a clear expression of the volunteer spirit

the animating force of citizenship in our democracy, he concluded.

The labor club is composed of business agents of various A. F. of L. local unions.

Organized labor is represented in the management of the fund with members on the board of directors and a number of committees.

URGES U. S. TO SELL RUBBER FACTORIES

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 17 (U. P.).—Turning over of synthetic rubber factories to private industry was urged today by William M. Jeffers, Union Pacific railroad executive and wartime rubber director.

Speaking at a convention banquet of the National Association of Independent Tire Dealers last night, Mr. Jeffers said:

"With our synthetic plants in production, we are in a position to dictate to the world the price of crude rubber."

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