

sickness and disease. . . . The facts are that we spend \$20 billion dollars a year for cold war.”

However, in the end, it was neither Henry Wallace nor the new-found Independent Progressive party that set the tone for the campaign, but the federal government. The day before the convention opened in Philadelphia, the Justice Department announced the conclusions of the grand jury before which I had appeared the year before: the twelve members of the national board of the Communist party, including its chair, William Z. Foster, and general secretary, Eugene Dennis, were indicted under the Smith Act for conspiracy to advocate the overthrow of the U.S. government by force and violence.

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Two weeks after the Philadelphia convention, the House Un-American Activities Committee went after the Progressive party. Fresh from its triumphs in ridding Hollywood of the likes of Dalton Trumbo, Jack Lawson, Bertolt Brecht, and Charlie Chaplin, the committee subpoenaed me to appear in closed session, together with Charlie Kramer, Lee Pressman, and Nat Witt. Nat was then in law partnership with one of his old Harvard classmates, Hal Cammer, and on moving back to New York, Pressman also joined the firm. Nat and Lee remained old friends from the New Deal and still had summer cottages together in the same Vermont community of Randolph Corner, where my sister, Marion, spent vacations. When Lee, as CIO counsel, needed legal work done in New York, he had passed it on to Nat and Hal. So Hal agreed to represent each of us before HUAC.

We had been named by Whittaker Chambers in his testimony against Alger Hiss as members of “the Ware Group” of Communists “infiltrating” the Roosevelt administration. I had met Chambers a couple of times in my Washington days and found him somewhat odd. He spoke cryptically, affecting an air of mystery with a simulated central European accent. I imagined him to be German, perhaps a representative of the Communist International, and was surprised to learn later that he had become a staff writer for *Time*.

Rep. John Rankin of Mississippi, with whom I’d crossed swords during my AAA and WPA days, was still hoisting the burning cross of white supremacy in the halls of Congress. A dominant member of HUAC, he pointed out that Pressman and I were on the Progressive party staff and urged the committee to subpoena Henry Wallace as well, for whom Alger Hiss had also worked in the Agriculture Department. (Shortly after our appearance, Marion was also brought before HUAC on the basis of her friendship with Alger during our Washington days;