

There was something of the zealot and dogmatist in Mandel's devotion to the committee and its tasks. Like his staff colleague of Dies committee days, J. B. Mathews, he brought to the task of fighting Communists all of that determination and unity of thought and purpose possessed by those who once found communism itself attractive. Moreover, like others who have turned away from the Communist movement, he took a very serious view of the threat of communism and was inclined to see evidences of communism at work where most people did not. It is not surprising then that he viewed the function of the Un-American Activities Committee as of prime importance. Above all, he saw the committee as the one agency that was in a position to educate the nation concerning the dark evils and dread threat of communism.

The research unit of the committee's staff, as has been indicated, was largely synonymous with Mandel, since apart from him its personnel never exceeded two or three "research clerks" working under his direction. There is no doubt about Mandel's familiarity with the intricacies of the Communist movement. Its personnel, its "front organizations," its publications, and its techniques were well known to him. Accordingly, he was able to feed into the files on a day-by-day basis published evidences of Communist activity. At the same time, it is quite clear that he did not always succeed in distinguishing carefully between genuine communism and the non-Communist left. Moreover, as his own direct familiarity with communism receded further into the past, his knowledge of the present-day party, its leaders, and its method developed obvious gaps.

Mandel's good and bad points are clearly revealed in those committee publications which were largely his responsibility. The half-dozen or so reports that deal with Communist front organizations and the two reports on the Communist Party itself are valuable sources of information. But their data are often undigested and badly organized. Virtually all of these reports are exceedingly difficult to read, and they contain so many obvious errors and grossly unfair attacks upon persons of undoubted non-Communist standing that it is often difficult to single out or evaluate the authentic information about Communists and Communist activity that they contain. Mandel seems to have been largely responsible for the consistent use in these reports of tables, charts, and textual analyses of the organizational affiliations of long lists of persons who are either directly or by implication accused of subversive activity. Indeed, as has already been indicated, the material in the committee files consists in good part