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THE GREAT RED MIGRATION

After the signing of the Roosevelt-Stalin Pact, and the adoption by the Communists of the People's Front policy, the comrades, open and covert, their fellow-travelers, under-cover agents, stooges and do-gooder dupes, moved in on the capital with one eye on the official flesh pots and the other on the Party line. The open sesame to the sacred inner circles of the New Deal was the support, moral or financial or both, of the numerous Communist-inspired "front" groups which sprang like mushrooms in hotels, clubs and swanky drawing rooms of Washington. And woe betide the individual, office holder or even the worker on WPA, who dared hold out and refuse to contribute or support these groups. His life was made miserable in a thousand and one ways by autocratic Party commissars in the various Federal departments.

Whether the motive in joining these groups was frankly revolutionary or plainly careerist, it served the Party purposes just as well, as is clear from an examination of the reasons behind the foundation of these "innocent" fronts. Speaking before the Sixth Plenum of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, Comrade Kuusinen, Comintern secretary, has

handed down the following categorical instruction for the American Communist

Party and its brother parties throughout the world:

"The first part of our task is to build up, not only Communist organizations but other organizations as well, above all, mass organizations sympathizing with our aims and able to aid us for special purposes We must create a whole solar system of organizations and smaller committees around the Communist Party, so to speak, smaller organizations working actually under the influence of our party."

Among the organizations, founded and operated in Washington, in accord with this edict are: International Labor Defense, National Lawyers Guild, International Juridical Association, American League for Peace and Democracy, American Friends of the Chinese People, Aid for China Committee, Descendants of the American Revolution, Films for Democracy, Committee for Democratic Rights, Conference on Constitutional Liberties, Spanish Refugee Relief Campaign, Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, American Friends of Spanish Democracy, North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born, American Youth Congress, Washington Youth Council, Daughters of the American Depression, League of Women Shoppers, Committee to Aid Agricultural Workers, and countless others which come and go under varied gushy titles, which serve as attractive bait for the naive do-gooders. Behind the scenes,

however, the Communist Party pulls the strings, utilizes the stream of shekels which flows from these golden pipe lines and capitalized the contacts and influence it thus obtains through channels unapproachable to the Party itself.

Many varied purposes are served by these groups. New Dealers are flattered and lionized by hand-picked audiences and at the same time they serve to dignify and give prestige to otherwise disreputable causes. Up-and-coming radical lawyers and lowly clerks are privileged to rub shoulders with Big Shots of the New Deal. Bored ladies, of a certain restless age, and considerable means, are given a thrilling opportunity to advocate revolutionary and unorthodox causes, without the slightest conception of what it is all about. All in all we have here a composite picture of the Communist-dominated "People's Front," which is the ginger group behind the New Deal.

To get an idea of the excitement which the "front" has injected into the otherwise tedious round of social life in Washington, let us glance for a moment behind the scenes of the League of Women Shoppers, which includes among its supporters such ardent shoppers as Mrs.

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Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Mrs. Henry Morgenthau, Mrs. Lee Pressman, Mrs. Nathan Witt, Mrs. Thomas Blaisdell, Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, Mrs. Mordecai Ezekiel, Mrs. Clark Foreman. In its News Letter of May 1940 we find described the "gay carnival scene" at the "Sky-Top Fair" at the Washington Hotel Roof, netting "approximately \$600.00 into the yawning treasury of the LWS." (League of Women Shoppers). Lavish tribute is paid to the histrionic talents of the "psychic Abe Fortas (Securities and Exchange Commission) to Leon Henderson whose love potion of suffrage transformed Betty Vinton; to Metcalfe Walling and his Post boy, Gardner Jackson." Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas is thanked for his gracious award of prizes.

Under the caption "It Is Cricket to Picket", is described a "spirited talk" by Mrs. Gifford Pinchot on the merits of picketing, after which we learn, "25 volunteered to picket the next Wednesday at the Press Cafeteria." And so the wealthy dowagers combine slenderizing exercises with the class struggle.

On a no less notable occasion, on Friday, May 10, the League held a cocktail party and informal buffet supper, which was followed the next day

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by a panel discussion on "Labor and Civil Rights" over which that noted civic authority Dorothy Parker presided.

The League of Women Shoppers is listed in the official files of the Communist Party of Philadelphia as a "party organization." Its exploits are regularly publicized in the Communist Daily Worker. The first executive secretary of the League was Helen Kay, a prominent member of the Communist Party, and a writer for the Daily Worker, the New Masses, and Soviet Russia Today. The pamphlet "Consider the Laundry Workers" published by the League, was printed by the Prompt Press, Communist Party printshop under union label 209. Leane Zugsmith, author of a pamphlet "L Is For Labor," published by the League of Women Shoppers, who also writes for the Daily Worker and the New Masses, gives a definition of the sitdown strike as a procedure which "makes it difficult for the employers to hire strike-breakers" -- a typical Communist viewpoint. For anyone but a New Dealer the character of this organization should be clear as crystal.

On May 12, 1940, several hundred "Daughters of the American Depression" including representatives of the Communist-controlled Workers Alliance assembled in Washington to tell their stories before a "jury of women"