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Guest (s): Talmadge, Herman E.

Title: Communist threat to U.S.

Note: Questions were paraphrased and/or shortened by the transcriber. For the exact question, please consult the audiotapes.

Morphew: Introduction...chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Internal Security Committee...recognized nationally as one of the outstanding authorities on the techniques of communist subversion...as the chairman of these committees, would you say that the communists constitute a real threat to the U.S. at the present time?

Eastland: I certainly would. Within the past year, the communists have adopted more subtle and evasive methods of operation. They have hid out in new and more sensitive areas and their activities have the full support of the Soviet empire which controls one-third of the world's population and one-quarter of the earth's surface as well as 36 million communists throughout the world. That is why they are more dangerous than ever.

Morphew: What would consider to be the most dangerous and sensitive area of communist subversion?

Eastland: Unquestionably, the answer, the island of Cuba which is only 90 miles from the shores of the United States.

Morphew: What are some of the objectives in Cuba?

Eastland: In Cuba, they have established a beachhead from which they are conducting military, economic, and propaganda operations against the democracies of the western hemisphere and against the United States with arms and personnel coming from behind the Iron Curtain. Let us never forget that our southern states are in closest proximity to Cuba and Latin America. Cuba is today Khrushchev's leading outpost in the western hemisphere. There are small wonder that he has promised Soviet rockets to aid Castro against the United States. Khrushchev has made a mockery of the Monroe Doctrine.

Morphew: Have the communists been bold enough yet to conduct propaganda activity within the united states in behalf of the subversive government of Fidel Castro?

Eastland: Certainly. There is an organization known as the Fair Play for Cuba Committee on which hearings have been held by our subcommittee. This organization is dedicated to promoting the interests of the tyrannical Castro regime and vilifying the United States. It might be better known as a Raw Deal for the United States Committee. Communists are taking a leading part in this organization. Communist publications are promoting it actively. It is holding meetings in large cities throughout the United States and it has established chapters in more than 40 colleges and universities of our country.

Morphew: Back in April 6, 1960, the NYT carried a three-quarter page ad in behalf of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. A number of American writers and professionals sponsored it. Do you have any comment on this?

Eastland: According to sworn testimony of a participant, that advertisement, despite assurances we were given under oath that it was paid wholly from American sources, was financed to the tune of over three thousand dollars by a representative of the Cuban government, the Castro government. The head of the organization, Robert Tabor, is known to have taken refuge in Havana where he is beyond the reach of the Department of Justice.

Morphew: Is he a known communist?

Eastland: No, he is merely a communist front.

Morphew: Do you have any info as to subversive activity by this committee on college campuses?

Eastland: Yes. You are aware of the fact that this organization conducted a tour of Cuba at bargain rates for three hundred fifty of our college students. They attended a parade at Havana at which weapons from behind the Iron Curtain were featured. One hundred members of this group gave blood donations for Cuban victims of what they call "dynamite bombs," allegedly supplied by the United States. The propaganda sheets of this organization has denounced the officials of the CIA and the FBI as dehumanized, cold war fanatics.

Morphew: I noticed a news item recently about the Latin American Conference for National Sovereignty, Economic Emancipation and Peace being held in Mexico on March 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>, does that conference bear any relation to Castro's designs against the United States?

Eastland: That conference was organized by Castro and his agents with the help of communists and fellow travelers in various Latin American countries. Its purpose was to unify these forces against the American people which was the center of the attack.

Morphew: Would you say that the communists are making a concentrated drive to reach young people in the United States.

Eastland: Decidedly. On December 30, 1960 to January 1, 1961, certain well-known young communists organized what they called the Chicago Youth Conference to set up an organizing committee for a National Socialist oriented youth organization. Note the high-sounding and misleading title. The following states were represented: Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, California, Washington state, and Iowa. The meeting was promptly denounced as a communist project by J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Morphew: You have referred to the subtle methods being used, will you give us an example of this?

Eastland: Well, for example, we had before our committee the legislative director of the Communist Party of the United States. He issued a directive in the Communist Party voice on November 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1958, in which he frankly declared, we must support, encourage, and help develop the broad community peace movements and organizations centering at present on the issue of stopping the atomic tests. In other words, the party on many occasions does not appear in its own name and functions but functions through other organizations which are not necessarily led by communists.

Morphew: How was this particular directive put into practice?

Eastland: There is in New York a committee known as the Greater New York Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy. It is an affiliate of the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy and is supported by many well-known Americans who are conducting a campaign for the stopping of atomic tests, a question vital to our national security. In hearings conducted by our subcommittee, it was found that ten local chairmen of the Greater New York committee, three active members and twelve contributors or supporters took the Fifth Amendment in refusing to answer questions relating to their membership in the communist party.

Morphew: How do groups like this get well meaning individuals to support them?

Eastland: They get prominent and well-known citizens to support them by duping them and it's generally people with a very liberal viewpoint on matters.

Morphew: Are there any other organizations which are headed by persons who are not themselves avowed communists?

Eastland: Of course. There is, for example, the American Civil Liberties Committee, the Emergency, I mean, Civil Liberties Committee, which is actively defending communist cases and which is seeking the abolition of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, the FBI and the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

Morphew: Where will the communists give their attention in coming months?

Eastland: Among the unemployed. The Communist Worker of March 5, 1961, for example, described in graphic detail what the Party expects its followers to do. There were photographs of marching demonstrations, hunger marches and the occupation of government buildings during the 1930s. There were descriptions of police battles. We can confidently expect during the coming months that the communists will try to exploit the suffering of the unemployed for their own subversive purposes. Our government and our people must be alerted to this.

Morphew: It has been said that communist activity here is no longer being directed by Moscow. Do you have anything to say about this?

Eastland: That is a strange theory in view of the facts. For the first time in the history of the Communist Party of the United States a delegate attended the Twenty-First Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1959. The American delegates attended the conference of 81 communist and workers' parties held in Moscow in December 1960. The Communist Party of the United States is and always has been a tool of the communist party of the Soviet Union. Every action taken by the American communists fit in with the Soviet design for the destruction of the United States.

Morphew: Have you seen any signs recently of an awakening on the part of Americans to the dangers posed by world communism?

Eastland: Well, I think that the American Legion and other organizations have done very fine work to awaken American people, but I do not think that the problem has been, that the people have grasped the magnitude of the problem.

Morphew: Certainly if they understood the bigness of this particular problem they would be more concerned.

Eastland: Correct. And they are dealing with organizers, in fact, the communist party has taken over the great space in the world which it has through its superb ability to organize and to use other people.