

STATE OF WASHINGTON



REPORT OF JOINT FACT FINDING COMMITTEE  
ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

Established by the Thirtieth Legislature Under  
House Concurrent Resolution No. 10



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*Preface*

To the Hon. Herbert Hamblen, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and members of the 30th Washington State Legislature:

Herewith is submitted a transcript of the proceedings of the first public hearings held by the Joint Legislative Committee named by your honorable body to investigate subversive activities in the State of Washington.

The Committee conducted its proceedings under authority vested in it by House Concurrent Resolution No. 10. The constitutionality of your investigating body has been upheld by the Supreme Court of the State of Washington.

The first public hearings were held in the 146th Field Artillery Armory, Fourth and Harrison, Seattle, from January 27 to February 5, inclusive.

The testimony and evidence of subversive activities in the State of Washington produced at these hearings were developed by thorough and painstaking investigation directed by your Committee.

The hearings were the culmination of the first phase of the Committee's investigations. The testimony and evidence produced at the hearings concerned largely, though not exclusively, the operations of the Washington Pension Union leadership.

Your Committee feels it has definitely established in these hearings that the Pension Union leadership as of the date of the hearings was definitely of a subversive character. Through witnesses and documentary evidence the Committee established that many of the Pension Union leaders were members of the Communist Party and that they wilfully and coercively used the Pension Union as a sounding board to propagandize and exploit the interests of Soviet Russia as opposed to the best interests and safety and security of the United States.

It should be pointed out that although the Washington Pension Union leaders named in the testimony and evidence were invited to take the witness stand and state, under oath, whether or not they disagreed with or concurred in the evidence presented, none availed himself or herself of the opportunity.

Nevertheless, many of those named as subversive employed the now well-known Communist tactics of vilification and smear and issued public denials that did not carry the weight of sworn testimony and which, under the circumstances, your Committee must regard as wholly irresponsible.

Conduct of the Washington Pension Union by these subversive elements is submitted as an example of the manner in which these forces, detrimental to the security of our country, have operated in other organizations and groups.

Especially does your Committee emphasize, for your attention, the overwhelming testimony concerning the operation of a Communist bloc in our legislative sessions under the pseudonym of an established major political party.

At all times it has been the purpose of the Communist forces operating underground in our legislature and in labor and other organizations to conceal their true identity.

The testimony and evidence in the first hearings prove conclusively, in the judgment of your Committee, that:

1. Communists in the State of Washington operate under, and undeviatingly follow, policies laid down for them by the Soviet government.

2. These policies are promulgated on a nation-wide basis and that the activities of Communists in the State of Washington are coordinated with Communist activities in the other states of the union.

3. The dovetailed nation-wide program is designed to create distrust of their form of government in the minds and hearts of the American people; create unrest and civil strife, and impede the normal processes of state and national government, all to the end of weakening and ultimately destroying the United States as a constitutional republic and thereby facilitating the avowed Soviet purpose of substituting here a totalitarian dictatorship.

Fantastic as this may appear to the uninitiate and the naive, the testimony produced at the public hearings clearly brings into view the extreme danger of the Soviet directed Communist conspiracy to the peace and security of the people of the State of Washington and the United States.

The Committee wishes to lay special emphasis on the fact that its testimony and documentary evidence were made possible by the tireless and devoted labor of a highly specialized staff of investigators, all of whom have had years of training in the investigative field in various branches of the Federal government.

ALBERT F. CANWELL, *Chairman*

IN THE HOUSE.

By MESSRS. CANWELL and STEVENS.

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

STATE OF WASHINGTON, THIRTIETH REGULAR SESSION.

Read first time February 26, 1947, ordered printed and referred to Committee on Military and Naval Affairs.

Providing for investigation of subversive activities.

*Be It Resolved By the House of Representatives, the Senate Concurring, of the State of Washington in Legislative Session Assembled:*

WHEREAS, These are times of public danger; subversive persons and groups are endangering our domestic unity, so as to leave us unprepared to meet aggression, and under cover of the protection afforded by the bill of rights these persons and groups seek to destroy our liberties and our freedom by force, threats and sabotage, and to subject us to the domination of foreign powers; and

WHEREAS, Recent announcements by responsible officers of the federal government indicate the seriousness of the problem. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, recently said: "During the past five years American Communists have made their deepest inroads upon our national life. Their propaganda, skillfully designed and adroitly executed has been projected into practically every phase of our national life. The Communist influence has projected itself into some newspapers, books, radio and the screen, some churches, schools, colleges and even fraternal orders have been penetrated, not with the approval of the rank and file, but in spite of them"; and

WHEREAS, State legislation to meet the problem and to assist law enforcement officers can best be based on a thorough and impartial investigation by a competent and active legislative committee;

*Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved,* That there is hereby created a Joint Legislative Fact-finding Committee on Un-American Activities in the State of Washington which shall investigate, ascertain, collate and appraise all facts concerning individuals, groups or organizations whose activities are such as to indicate a purpose to foment internal strife, discord and dissension; infiltrate and undermine the stability of our American institutions; confuse and mislead the people; and impede the normal progress of our state and nation either in a war time or a peace time economy; and

*Be It Further Resolved,* That in addition to other duties imposed upon the committee, the committee shall investigate the activities of groups and organizations whose membership includes persons who are communists, or any other organization known or suspected to be dominated or controlled by a foreign power, which activities affect the conduct of this state, the functioning of any state agency, unemployment relief and other forms of public assistance, educational institutions of this state supported in whole or in part by state funds, or any political program; and

*Be It Further Resolved,* That the committee shall consist of four members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker thereof; and three members of the Senate appointed by the president thereof and they shall be subject to confirmation of their respective bodies. The speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the chairman of the board; and

*Be It Further Resolved*, That the committee hereby created in exercising the powers and performing the functions vested in it by this resolution shall have: (I) All the powers conferred upon legislative committees by chapter 6, Laws of 1895 and chapter 33, Laws of 1897; (II) except when inconsistent with this resolution, all the powers conferred upon committees by the rules of the House of Representatives, the rules of the Senate, and the joint rules of the Senate and House of Representatives as they are enacted and amended from time to time and such rules are hereby incorporated herein and made a part hereof the same as if they were set forth in this resolution in full; (III) all powers necessary or convenient to accomplish the objects and purposes of this resolution, including but not limited to the following duties and powers:

(1) To employ and fix the compensation of a secretary and such clerical, legal, expert and technical assistants as it may deem necessary, and to lease, rent or buy such supplies and facilities as may be required;

(2) The chairman shall have authority to create subcommittees from its membership, assigning to the subcommittee any study, inquiry, investigation or hearing which the committee itself has authority to undertake or hold, and the subcommittee for the purpose of this assignment shall have and exercise all of the powers conferred upon the committee limited by the express terms of the resolution or resolutions of the latter defining the powers and duties of the subcommittee, which powers may be withdrawn or terminated at any time by the committee;

(3) To adopt and from time to time amend such rules governing its procedure (including the fixing of its own quorum and the number of votes necessary to take action on any matter) as may to it appear appropriate;

(4) To contract with such other agencies, public or private, as it deems necessary for the rendition and affording of such services, facilities, studies and reports to the committee as will best assist it to carry out the purposes for which it is created;

(5) To hold public hearings at any place in the State of Washington at which hearings the people are to have an opportunity to present their views to the committee;

(6) To make a complete study, survey and investigation of every phase of the subject of this resolution, including but not limited to the operation, effect, administration, enforcement, and needed revision of any and all laws in anywise bearing upon or relating to the subject of this resolution;

(7) To meet at any and all places in this state, in public or executive session;

(8) To act during this session of the legislature, including any recess hereof, and after final adjournment hereof until commencement of the thirty-first legislature;

(9) To file a report with the thirty-first legislature;

(10) To summon and subpoena witnesses, require the production of papers, books, accounts, reports, documents, and records of every kind and description; to issue subpoenas and to take all necessary means to compel the attendance of witnesses and procure testimony; to pay fees and traveling expenses of witnesses to insure their attendance, if necessary; to procure from any court having jurisdiction, upon complaint showing probable cause to believe that pertinent evidence is being concealed or withheld from the committee, a search warrant and cause a search to be made therefor;

(11) To cooperate with and secure the cooperation of county, city, city and county and other local enforcement agencies in investigating any matter within the scope of this resolution, and to direct the sheriff of any county to serve subpoenas, orders, and other process issued by the committee; and

(12) To do any and all other things necessary or convenient to enable it fully and adequately to exercise its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objects and purposes of this resolution; and in case of disobedience on the part of any witness to comply with any subpoena issued by the committee or on the refusal of any person to testify regarding any matter on which he may be lawfully interrogated, the superior court of any county, or the judge thereof, on application of the committee, shall compel compliance by proceedings for contempt, as in the case of disobedience of the requirements of a subpoena issued from such court or a refusal to testify therein; and

*Be It Further Resolved*, That the committee, each of its members, and any representative of the committee thereunto authorized by the committee or by its chairman, is authorized and empowered to administer oaths; and

*Be It Further Resolved*, That every department, commission, board, agency, officer and employee of the state government, including the attorney general, and their subordinates, and of any political subdivision, county, city, or public district of or in this state shall furnish the committee and any subcommittee, upon request, any and all such assistance, and information, records and documents as the committee or subcommittee deems proper for the accomplishment of the purposes for which the committee is created; and

*Be It Further Resolved*, That the Washington state patrol and all officers and members thereof shall furnish such assistance to the committee as the chairman may direct; and

*Be It Further Resolved*, That the members appointed to the joint Legislative Fact-finding Committee on Un-American Activities shall be reimbursed for their expenses incurred while attending sessions of the committee or subcommittee to the extent of fifteen dollars (\$15) per day plus five cents (5¢) per mile in going to and coming from meetings or hearings of the committee or subcommittee, the same to be paid upon their individual vouchers, approved by the chairman of the committee, from any moneys appropriated for the expense of the thirtieth legislature, or from such other funds as may be made available therefor; and that the salaries and expenses of any expert, clerical, and other assistants employed by the committee shall be paid upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee from such funds.