
LIBERTY PLEDGE NEWSLETTER

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY - NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
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OCTOBER 1989

MEMBERSHIP TOPS 7000

As of 10/06, the National membership has reached 7244! This number exceeds our old record high of 6750 in 5/85! WHY? With recent membership contests, two Ron Paul mailings, C-span viewers joining, and the new confidence about the LP has had an effect on the number of renewals. Our goal is for 10,000 by the '91 convention in Chicago -- wanna bet we make it?

COLLEGE OUTREACH PROGRAM

With over 200 contacts, 71 clubs and literature tables, Young Libertarians are appearing on college campuses across the country. If you are interested in starting a YL on your local campus, contact the LP HQ for further information. You will receive a complete organizational manual and a "care package", everything you'll need to spread the LP word in its fight for freedom.

THANKS for the clippings that have been sent in this month!

SHOULD WE RE-LEGALIZE DRUGS?

...our latest position paper, now available through LP HQ. The LP has definitely taken the lead in the drug legalization issue. At the recent NORML conference, Arnold Trebach of the Drug Policy Foundation claimed to take the Libertarian position on drug legalization, as did NORML board member Dan Viets. Several LPers from across the country were in attendance, including LP staffer Me Me King.

Don Ernsberger recently appeared on ABC's Issues and Answers in Philadelphia. Don received many calls... all favorable.

The AP bureau chief contacted the LP HQ recently for an official statement, we are now being included and highlighted in all background releases. What clippings we see, many LPers are being published concerning the "drug war". Its your turn...write today!

The drug issue Task Force Report is now available through LP HQ. **YES, re-legalize!**

Like it or not, political quiz proves the Libertarian label fits

THE MESSAGE was clear: "May the fleas of ten thousand dogs rest within your beard." Signed: WKII.

WKII happens to be Walt Karwicky, prolific letter-to-the-editor writer and well known in York County as a member of the Libertarian Party.

I wasn't immediately certain why he deemed my beard adequate lodging for a large family of fleas, but I assumed he was making exception to one of my columns, probably one published the day before about "slob smokers."

But just to make certain, I called him on the telephone. A man answered, but it wasn't Karwicky. Walt would be back at 6 p.m., the man said.

So while I passed the time until 5 p.m., I glanced through the piece of Libertarian Party propaganda Karwicky had used as a memo pad for the above mentioned curse.

It was mostly a piece of litera-



LARRY HICKS

ture that served to promote the Libertarian Party's "Proclaim Liberty Convention," which was held in Philadelphia this past Thursday through yesterday.

Anyway, what caught my attention was the "World's Smallest Political Quiz," which occupied a spot next to the registration form. Basically it was a 10-question test to determine one's political identity. The idea, of course, was to figure out if a person is Libertarian, Centrist, Authoritarian, Liberal or Conservative by one's responses to 10 questions.

Not surprisingly, the test didn't say anything about Republicans or Democrats.

What the heck, I figured, I'll take the test.

To make a long story short, I circled "yes" when I agreed that military service should be voluntary, that government should not own or control TV or the press and that all regulations on sex by consenting adults should be re-

pealed. At 20 points for each "yes," plus 10 more points for a "maybe" on repealing drug laws because they do more harm than good, I tallied 70 points on Part 1 of the test.

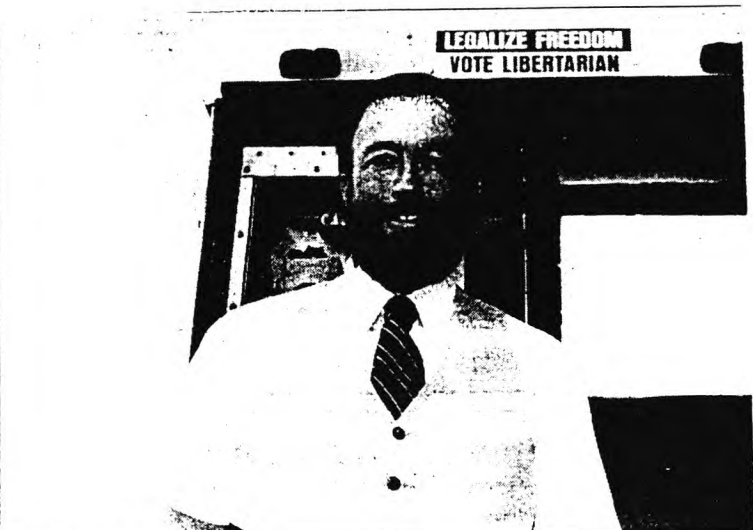
Part 2 dealt with economic issues. Again three more "yes" votes for believing that farmers should farm without quotas or subsidies, that people are better off with free trade than with tariffs and that Europeans and Japanese should pay for their own

wage laws should be eliminated. I confess I have not always been a "good" Republican, since I have voted often for certain candidates of the Democratic Party. But that occasional mutiny should not be held against me. I did not deserve this fate.

Larry Hicks, a Libertarian. No way. But every cloud has a silver lining, I guess. I noticed a list of names at the bottom of the page. Margaret Thatcher is held up as a shining example of a Conservative and Franklin D. Roosevelt the perfect Liberal. Stalin and Hitler were Authoritarians.

And there it was. The best examples of Libertarians were Thomas Jefferson and Henry David Thoreau.

Ah, yes. For some reason, I don't mind being compared to Jefferson and Thoreau. I could do worse. At least they never said they wanted to turn my beard into a flea-bag flophouse.



302 Joseph E. Knight, Libertarian Party state coordinator, spent last week in the Deming, Columbus and Silver City area conducting registration drives, seminars and educating people about the Libertarian Party. Photo by July McClure

Libertarian Party stresses freedom over intervention

By JULY McCLURE
Headlight staff reporter

The Libertarian Party wants people to re-orient the way they think about politics.

"We have all grown up with the left-right concept of government," said Joseph E. Knight, Libertarian Party state coordinator, as he addressed a small but attentive audience Sunday at the Moose Club, 119 N. Gold Ave. "The liberals are on the left, conservatives on the right and moderates in the middle. We want people to think in terms of libertarian versus authoritarian...to change the continuum to personal and economic freedom."

Knight went on to define the different political groups in terms of a libertarian versus authoritarian scale.

"Liberals are high on personal freedom and low on economic freedom," Knight said. "Conservatives are just the opposite and Libertarians believe we should have more of both personal and economic freedom."

The Libertarian platform rejects the use of force as a means of achieving political, social or personal goals.

many people ask, "Why support a minor party that can't win?" Libertarians offer some good arguments, Knight said. "We can win...and without the threat of a strong third political party, both of the major parties will become more alike and voters will have less and less as a basis for choice," he said. "Third party movements have historically influenced platforms of the major parties."

Knight acknowledges the self-government advocated by his party will not solve all this country's problems.

"Libertarians do not promise Utopia. We just want to get government out of the way to help the people solve their own problems," he said.

Republicans and Democrats are taking citizens down the road of more government, he said.

"The Libertarian option is to have less government. If that's your belief, your political home is with us," Knight said.

Knight will travel to Albuquerque this week to conduct another seminar before returning to his home in Farmington.

Libertarian on Liberty

Your Aug. 9 page-one article on the Koch family plays a little loose with definitions when describing the Libertarian Party as "anti-government."

The Internal Revenue Service's description is more enlightening: "... a political philosophy, the basic premise of which is that each individual should be free to do as he or she please, so long as he or she does not harm others. In the Libertarian view, societies and governments infringe on individual liberties whenever they tax wealth, create penalties for victimless crimes or otherwise attempt to control or regulate individual conduct which harms or benefits no one except the individual who engaged in it."

If Libertarians can be deemed anti-government, then surely, Republicans and Democrats can be considered anti-liberty.

WILLIAM J. HICKMAN
Granville, Ohio

THE WAR ON DRUGS

Legalizers, lawyers, liberals, libertarians lash drug plan

By Peter LaBarbera
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Not everyone was rushing to enlist in President Bush's war on drugs yesterday.

Critics and debunkers included organizations that fear increased government intrusion into Americans' private lives, doubt the chances for success or believe the problem is not drugs but only their illegality.

A sampling of comments shows the diversity of opinions arrayed against the president's \$7.9 billion anti-drug plan:

• F. Andy Messing Jr., executive director of the National Defense Council Foundation: "To propose spending \$8 billion dollars against a \$500 billion-a-year industry worldwide — \$150 billion of it being in the

United States — is like taking a bucket of water to a forest fire."

• Ira Glasser, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, called the president's initiative a "scandal" and a "hoax on the public" that won't reduce drug crimes but will increase assaults on constitutional liberties. Instead of the plan's emphasis on law enforcement, he said, the government should spend "maybe a billion" on a massive campaign to educate the public on the dangers of drugs.

• Arnold Trebach, president of the Drug Policy Foundation, said the plan would result in "more crime in the streets, more drug-trade murders, more drug abuse and more AIDS, and more invasions of constitutional rights." Crack cocaine first appeared "during the Reagan drug wars," he said, adding, "The mes-

sage is that wars on drugs, while politically popular, produce perverse results."

• Neal Sonnett, president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, faulted the plan's "lock-em-up mentality." Its stress on penalizing casual drug users is "terribly misguided and foolhardy," he said, asserting that there is little correlation between casual users and violent crime.

• The Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics, a patients'-rights group, expressed concern that "as the war on drugs escalates, seriously ill patients will be caught in the cross fire." ACT noted that a year has passed since a judge told the Drug Enforcement Administration its ban on medicinal use of marijuana was "unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious," but DEA still won't

allow it. The group favors prescription use of marijuana for cancer, glaucoma and multiple-sclerosis patients.

• David K. Walter, Libertarian Party chairman: "Every war America has fought has left us with two legacies: less liberty and more cemeteries. The war on drugs is no exception. We already have less liberty as new laws attempt to monitor and restrict personal behavior, and the next step may be the unloading of body bags from Colombia..."

"The war in the streets will end only when we recognize the parallel between gangster shootings in the streets of Chicago in the '20s and the murders in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., of today. We must repeal drug prohibition as we repealed alcohol prohibition, thus wiping out overnight the enormous illegal prof-

its that create an irresistible incentive for pushing drugs."

• The Rev. Andrew Leigh Gunn, senior pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church on Wisconsin Avenue NW and spokesman for Clergy for an Enlightened Drug Policy: "We who are spiritual leaders of this country believe there should be compassion and understanding and good will and intelligent, enlightened love toward those who are afflicted with this drug epidemic. But we have heard nothing about this."

• David Fiedler, director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML): "Why spend billions of tax dollars chasing the marijuana smoker — building jail cells, treatment centers and unemployment lines — for citizens leading productive lives? ...

Let the prohibition pendulum against marijuana stop. It's gone far enough. The nation must find another cure for this drugphobia."

• Dr. Ron Paul, 1988 Libertarian Party presidential candidate and former Texas congressman: "In a free society, adults have the right to do whatever they wish, so long as they do not aggress or commit fraud against others."

"The fact is, 3,600 people die each year from drug abuse. That's less than 4 percent of those doomed by alcohol, about 1 percent of those killed by tobacco. ... Instead of spending tax money and assaulting civil liberties in the name of fighting drugs — usually couched in childish military metaphors — we should consider a policy based on the American tradition of freedom."

Reader Debate

How to Fight the War on Drugs

The new drug strategy has roughly the same prospects for success as the proverbial snowball in Lucifer's neighborhood. More money invested in meaner laws, harsher punishment and stepped-up combat against dealers and users is still rushing madly off in the wrong direction. We'll never get to a drug-free society down that never-successful trail.

Taking an entirely different route is the only logical response to the tragic problem. First, we should accept the historical logic of drug legalization to put the dealers and their sinister suppliers out of business. That daringly rational step should be followed by much anti-drug education efforts, medical support, and social improvements and by much less finger pointing and tough treatment. A misguided war on drugs will produce what most wars produce,

casualties and empty pockets.
ROY MEADOR
Ann Arbor

In the war against drugs we should all be willing to forgo some liberties for the "common good." Shame on The Detroit News for pushing libertarianism when sacrifices and resolve are demanded.
N.B. LAMBERT
Fenton, Mich.

Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke, and those who support his drug legalization theory, is grossly naive. The greatest threat of drug trafficking is not in the profits, it is not in the resulting potential violence... but the devastating health effects it has upon our being.
No matter if a "hit" or a "snort" cost \$100 "over the counter" or "under the counter," the users are igno-

rantly subjecting themselves to non-prescription, potentially lethal body poisons. I wonder if Mayor Schmoke would allow his children to purchase a drug through legal channels.
NORMAN K. BLEDSOE
Detroit

Cocaine, heroin and other narcotics are destructive. People have the right to do to themselves what they choose, even if it kills them. Consider this, some individuals went to jail for possession of it, a few individuals made money from the sale of it, and others were killed in its trafficking. I'm talking about Prohibition. The "war on drugs" will end the same way. Legalize these narcotics. The sooner the better.
SCOTT BEAVERS
Benton Harbor

We are all aware that the enemy of Americans is the drug cartels in Colombia and other countries, as well as the drug dealer on the streets.

If we could separate marijuana from other much more dangerous substances, we could eliminate the spending of millions of dollars and concentrate our efforts and resources where they will do the most good. Linking marijuana with crack cocaine is like linking a sparkler with a stick of dynamite. While not harmless, it is the least harmful of any drug (including alcohol).

Prohibition didn't stop alcohol consumption just as the use of marijuana in the home will never be completely eradicated. If it were legalized, its use could be legislated. I agree with Mayor Schmoke that legalization would take the profit out of the trade.
CAROL JAMISON
Bay City

All efforts to eradicate the drug crisis will be of little significance unless the parents and the churches get involved in actively supporting

the governmental programs to reduce the usage of drugs. The moral collapse of our culture is directly related to parental and ecclesiastical indifference to ethnical conduct.
BERNARD DAHL
Howell

It took a constitutional amendment to make the drug alcohol illegal in this country. All powers we have not specifically given to the central authority are retained by the people. Our government may never grant itself new powers. So, why is it that current government officials have been proceeding as if other drugs may be made illegal by statute alone. It seems our elected officials have forgotten or ignored our constitutionally protected rights. It is not government's place to save us from ourselves.
LYNN BELLAIR, Secretary
Libertarian Party of Michigan,
East Detroit



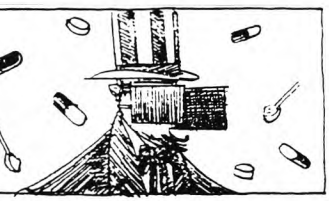
OPEN FORUM/JOHN VERNON

Vision Lacking In War on Drugs

WE CAN SEE WELL enough a great difference between my setting myself down to a self-control, and my going to make somebody else act after my views; but when a quarter of the human race assume to tell me what I must do, I may be too much disturbed by the circumstances to see so clearly the absurdity of their command. ... For, any laws but those which men make for themselves are laughable."

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote these words in his essay "Politics" a century and a half ago, but they are as true today as they were then.

When applied to the war on drugs and the raft of legislation that has accompanied it, they attain a bitter poignancy. For amid all the anti-drug rhetoric, the tragedy of drug addiction continues unabated, as though the logic of drug avoidance, so apparent to convinced non-users, were totally lost on those who are addicted. It is as if they were so disturbed by the cacophony of contradictory commands, as Emerson



said, that their own inward reasoning processes are paralyzed.

But again, as Emerson said, the "command" to abstain from drugs and the prohibition against selling them is absurd. Wherever there is pain, stress or discomfort, humankind will seek some quick means of alleviating that suffering. And all the prohibitions in the world cannot prevent the quest for that release and the market that it creates.

The market that prohibition produces is the problem here, not merely the need of drug abusers for pain relief. The drugs that are illegal today were not so classified 75 years ago, and their use did not foster the property crime, violence and corruption of the

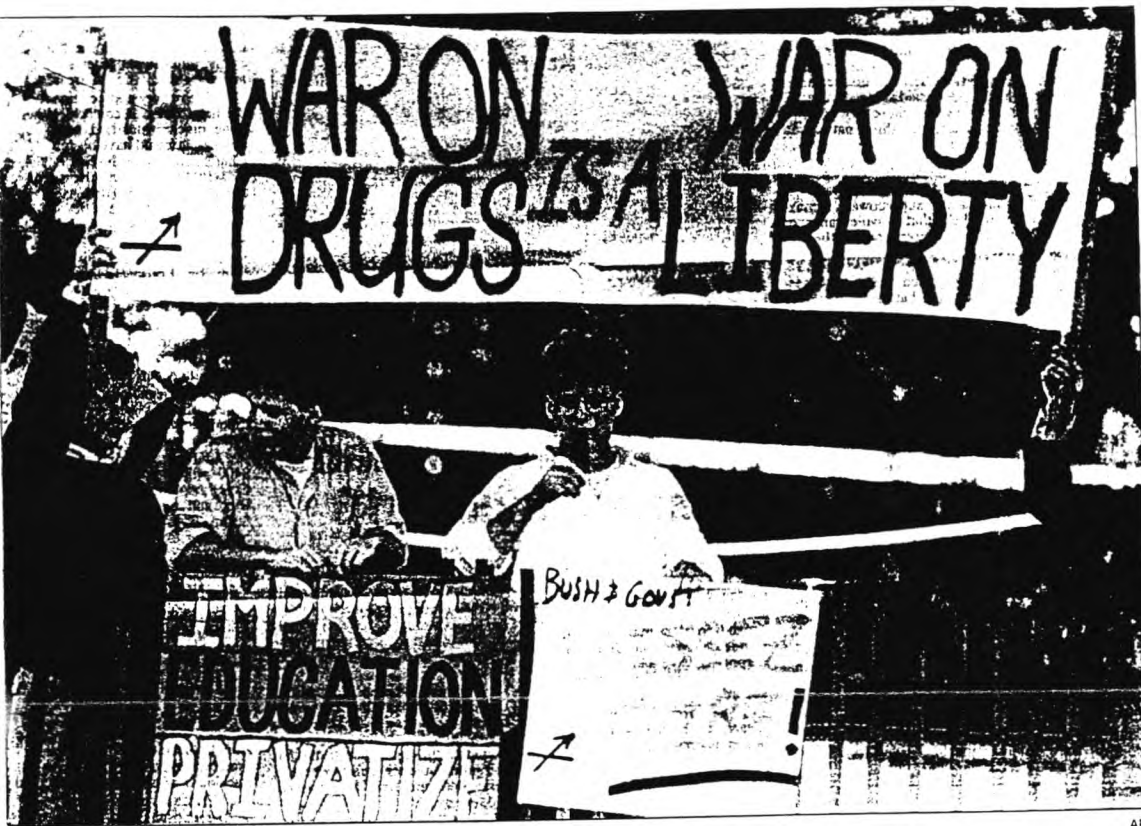
body politic that manifests itself today.

The profit in illegal drugs is so great — precisely because they are illegal — that it outweighs legal risks to drug dealers, risks that exist whether the buyer is an impressionable youth or a mature adult. The impressionable youth, however, represents an easier market. All of us as children have been lured by that which was forbidden and found it interesting for that very reason. In short order, the decriminalization of drugs would end the enormous profit in drugs and quickly unemploy the pimps of the drug trade.

LEGALIZATION may not solve all the problems connected with drug use, but then, as libertarian David Bergland has said, "Utopia is not an option." Yet considering what has befallen us, the legalization of drugs will surely produce nothing worse.

For those Americans who may not be persuaded by the reasoning just presented, there are other facets of the war on drugs that may give them pause. The constitutional violations of the war must be considered by conservative and liberal alike. Protections against unreasonable search and seizure are already being routinely violated and proposals in the mill would expand these violations. Mandatory drug testing and random alcohol roadblocks herald a police

(John Vernon is chairman of the California Libertarian Party.)



University of Virginia students send messages to President Bush and governors as they arrive at conference in Charlottesville

Not a Libertarian

To the Editor: I have been uncomfortable that columnist Stephen Chapman is labeled Libertarian. His column on immigration of Soviet Jews (Sept. 16) justifies my qualms. Chapman is correct that it is inappropriate to give these people the legal status of refugee, but one cannot leap from this point — as Chapman does — to the conclusion that they should be denied entry.

The Libertarian position is that immigration and emigration should not be regulated by the state. This unpopular position follows by necessity from the view that all fundamental rights belong to individuals, and the honest admission that no valid social contract has collectivized these rights.

I'm not sure what you should call Chapman. But I am sure that provocative, thorough-going, genuine Libertarian columnists can be found.

DANIEL KIAN MCKIERNAN
Lake Oswego

Drug-legalization cry revived

Bush speech stirs up proponents of decriminalization

By Sharon F. Griffin
Staff Writer

While President Bush prepares to launch an all-out attack in this nation's war on drugs, some local and national observers are questioning whether the President has his guns aimed in the right direction.

"Legalize drugs," Richard Rider, chairman of the San Diego Libertarian Party, said yesterday. "If you legalize drugs you will destroy the drug cartel. You will destroy the drug dealers overnight. You will put them out of the business."

Rider's call for the decriminalization of drugs is not a new idea, nor is he alone in his sentiment.

Baltimore Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke, Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz and William F. Buckley Jr., editor of the *National Review*, are among a growing number of national figures who now call for the legalization of some, if not all, drugs.

Mr. Bush, in his televised address to the nation Tuesday, never once mentioned the idea of decriminalizing narcotics. To the contrary, it

President vowed to not only crack down on hard-core addicts and dealers but also on casual drug users.

People such as Rider maintain that Mr. Bush is simply planning to reuse tactics that already have failed.

"The question is: Are we going to deal with it as a medical and ethical problem or are we going to deal with it as a criminal problem?" Rider said. "As long as we deal with it as a criminal problem, we will pay far, far more both directly in costs and, indirectly, in our freedoms."

Schmoke last year called for a national debate on decriminalization.

"Decriminalization would take the profit out of drugs and greatly reduce, if not eliminate, the drug-related violence that is currently plaguing our streets," he wrote in a commentary that appeared in the *Washington Post*. "Decriminalization will not solve this country's drug-abuse problem, but it could solve our most intractable crime problem."

Dr. Mitchell Rosenthal, founder of the Phoenix House Foundation — the nation's largest private, non-profit substance-abuse agency — does not see the decriminalization of drugs, not even marijuana, as a reasonable solution.

San Diego Mayor Maureen O'Con-

Too much regulation

Editor, Star-Free Press:
So Proposition 103 provides the latest episode of the voters looking to government for help through regulation only to be disappointed once again. Are you surprised? When are you going to wake up and smell the roses, Californians?

As a nation we became great by allowing a free market system to work, and believing that the government that governs best governs least. In the past two decades, however, we have looked to government to intervene into the free market system whenever that market did not yield the result deemed desirable by a special interest group.

Each time new regulation is attempted,

a new bureaucracy (including, in this case Roxani Gillespie) is formed, consuming carloads of tax dollars and providing unsatisfactory results. Roxani Gillespie is not the problem. Regulation is the problem. Don't believe it? Look at the products and services that have been subject to the most regulation: savings and loans, postal service, public schools, railroads, automobile insurance — all industries that many believe are providing very poor service at high cost.

Compare that to the industries that are thus far relatively unregulated: household appliances, private schools, private parcel delivery, TV, computers, electronics, supermarkets, shopping centers. Which system do you think works better, government regulation or free markets?

As a Libertarian, I'd rather let the free markets work and be rid of the costly government bureaucracy that in most cases has not provided any overall benefit. Let's not just get rid of the insurance commissioner, let's get rid of the Insurance Commission.

ROBERT A. CHATENEVER,
Ventura

nor also opposes legalizing drugs, and yesterday she said she supports the President's position that there are no casual drug users.

The President's stated stance toward casual and recreational drug users has not gone without notice, and already such users are gearing up for a fight.

"This attack on casual drug users is going to create a huge protest movement against the law," predicted Steve Hagar, editor of *High Times*, a New York-based magazine that deals primarily with topics on marijuana use.

"The (government) is going to be facing a Vietnam situation in another year," Hager said yesterday. "The marijuana protest movement just got the biggest shot in the arm that it could have ever received."

Dale Gieringer of NORML — the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws — yesterday expressed similar outrage at the President's plan to target marijuana users.

"If this is what the drug war is all about, it is the worst thing to come down the pike since McCarthyism," he said, referring to Sen. Joseph McCarthy's attacks on people and groups in the 1950s by charging, often falsely, that they were Communists.