

EXCERPTS FROM STATEMENT BY

IRA DeA. REID TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born

The only associations I can recall ever having with this organization were during the period 1930-1936, especially 1930-1934, when I was writing my doctoral dissertation on the problems of West Indian immigration. I was referred to that organization by the Bureau of Immigration of the Department of Labor. I had no reason for believing, or any occasion for discovering or determining the "Communistic" nature of the organization while I was collecting and analyzing the qualitative and quantitative data that organization made available to me.

Southern Negro Youth Congress

I became a member of the Advisory Committee of this organization at the behest of Dr. F. D. Patterson, Principal of Tuskegee Institute, the Committee's Chairman, in 1937 or 1938. So far as I knew the Committee was to be called upon to advise the young people on ways and means for promoting the SNYC program for increased social programs and civil rights for Negroes in the South. As an educator, citizen, and a Negro living in the South I approved of such an effort through the democratic means I consistently expressed. I did not attend any of the organization's meetings. I do not remember ever having contributed to its financial support. My connections with the organization ended in the summer of 1941 or 1942 when the SNYC held a seminar on the campus of Atlanta University where I was a teacher, and at which I spoke on "Race and Law in the South." The association ended because of my belief, which was stated to the SNYC executive, Louis Burnham, that the SNYC was unrealistic in its approach to civil rights in the South and was making martyrs of its young members by having them engage in crusades for which they were not prepared and which had little meaning for the Negro's welfare in that region. Because I did not believe in that sort of exploitation (I suppose) I was never asked to do anything with or for the SNYC after that time.

Jefferson School of Social Science

I have had no connections of any sort with this school, nor do I know anything of its activities beyond what has appeared in official reports of the government and in the daily press.

National Council of Arts, Sciences, and Professions

This organization has asked me to speak at several meetings. On two occasions I accepted the invitation to speak on professional subjects only. On October 9, 1948 I spoke at a Conference on Academic Freedom in New York City, speaking on the subject "Discrimination and the Quota System." My draft of that speech is attached. When later the same persons asked me to participate in the Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace, and the pattern of its support as well as its Communist identification were



revealed I resigned from the program in a telegram to the sponsors stating my position on such matters. I have held no membership in this body.

Southern Conference for Human Welfare

My connections with the Southern Conference for Human Welfare in no way followed any organization's line, much less whatever line the Communist Party pursued. My own views on the nature and value of that organization for the South's problems are covered in an article which I co-authored with Arthur Raper on "Old Conflicts in the New South". (The Virginia Quarterly Review, Spring, 1940. Vol.16, No.2, pp.218-229.) When the SCHW faced the problem of left-wing infiltration at its Chattanooga meeting I was among those who realized its meaning and eventually withdrew. A consequent action was accepting the Associate Executive Secretaryship of the Southern Regional Council (1943ff), an organization which was designed to promote fuller participation in democratic processes in the South and to implement the ideas and instructions growing out of two other Southern conferences -- the Durham (N.C.) Conference of Southern Negroes (1942) and the Atlanta (Ga.) Conference of Southern Whites (1943). The efforts of these two groups were resolved in a meeting of Negroes and whites in Richmond, Va. in 1943. Whatever the "Communist Partyline" was at that time, it most certainly was not the development of this program which it attacked before we were able to get the organization established.

National Citizen's Political Action Committee

At no time was I affiliated with this committee. At the time of its activity I was a member of, and later a National Board member of the Americans for Democratic Action, an organization that took a very determined stand against Communist infiltration.