

# MASTERS OF DECEIT

## Why U.S. Reds Quit The Party

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI since 1924, emphasizes that the danger to the United States from master Red plotters is as great as ever. In this week's installment of his book, "Masters of Deceit," Hoover tells how U.S. Communists after years of membership finally broke from the Red Party.

By J. EDGAR HOOVER  
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INSTALLMENT SIX

Just as important as knowing why persons join the Communist Party is an understanding of what may induce them to leave.

By recognizing and promoting the influences that cause communists to discover the fallacies and evils of communist doctrine and practice, persons in free countries can do much to defeat the communist international conspiracy.

Communists, even the hard-core Party members, potentially can be converted.

To the individual who asserts, "Once a communist, always a communist," I say: "No. Any communist may have his eyes opened to what's wrong with communism. The communist should not be rejected as hopelessly lost.

"THE EX-COMMUNIST should not be belittled or despised. He can redeem himself by actively taking a stand for freedom.

"Every patriotic citizen should do all he can to bring communists to see the truth. The ex-communist is today one of our most potent weapons against communism."

Howard Fast, the author of "The Last Frontier," "Freedom Road," "My Glorious Brothers" and other books, quit the Party after years of membership and writing thousands of words of communist propaganda.

The revelations of Khrushchev about Stalin's murderous regime were shocking to him.

"The dimensions of this horror were not only beyond anything we could have dreamed of... I was filled with loathing and disgust," he said.

He confessed, "a sense of being a victim of the most incredible swindle in modern times."

### How Lady Firebrand Broke With Party

Barbara Hartie, because of her fiery energy and zeal, was recognized in Party circles as the out-

Browder was on his way out as head of the communist movement. Barbara sat down to write an article for the communist press. In it, from sheer force of habit, she defended Browder.

But then what happened? She taught her in the Party asserted itself. Barbara was now the boss, no matter what. She tore up the article.

Later, back on the Party line, she wrote another article, supporting Browder. But she was refused by this sudden Party switch. Out of this confusion, this "great surprise," as she termed it, came an inkling of the fact that the Party was not what it claimed to be, "democratic," but a fraudulent deception.

It was one thing, however, to break intellectually with the Party, another to break openly. She had broken with the communist world of tyranny yet was held by the power that had robbed her of freedom. The indecision began to tear her apart. She was spiritually sick.

At first she kept saying to herself and the Party, "I'll be all right. Just give me a little time. I'll work this out."

### Reporter Helps Her Find The Way Out

Her indecision ended in March, 1954. What happened then illustrates what an understanding and sympathetic citizen can do to help convert a communist.

Traynor Hansen, a reporter for the Seattle "Post-Intelligencer," had covered the 1953 Seattle Smith Act trial. He had noticed, as others had, that Barbara Hartie lacked the fiery disposition of the other defendants.

Later, while out on bond, she had long visits with him. It was his counsel that she go to the FBI since it would have been improper under the circumstances for the FBI to go to her.

To Barbara Hartie's lasting credit, she did not try to evade responsibilities for or cover up her past errors. The information that she furnished the FBI is now at work against the very Party that for almost twenty years duped her. She deserves understanding and aid as she reconstructs her life.

Many FBI interviews with Party members reflect the fact that numerous men and women inside the movement are today in various stages of disillusionment. The numbers of those having doubts are good omens.

### Reasons Why Reds Quit

What usually causes doubt to arise in the minds of members? FBI experiences reveal these major categories:

1. The absence of freedom inside the Party.

"I was constantly whipped into line," one member said, "on policies and issues with which I disagreed." "Discussions at meetings were not open... meaning Party organizers would come and tell the club what to do.

A writer who quit the Party said he could no longer force himself "to live in the stifling atmosphere of the party line



Communist parade in 1930 in New York City shows many women as active members of Red party in U.S.

with all its ruthless intolerance for the processes of the mind."

In another instance a woman told the FBI what happened when she voted "no" in a Party meeting. "People literally moved their chairs away from me. I walked out of the meeting and never attended a Communist Party meeting again."

2. The inability to live a normal life.

The Party makes constant demands on the member's time. There is no end of assignments: distributing literature, attending meetings, getting petitions signed. Though herself a member, a woman complained that she was "sick and tired" of her husband's putting the Party before her and the children.

The Party's instructions must always take precedence. As suggested in the references above to the case of Barbara Hartie, there is a reason for this tactic of the Party in keeping the rank and file members busy.

But the constant monopolization of the member's time, of never allowing him to relax, to develop a hobby, or enjoy a family, often backfires.

3. The Party's callous disregard of members' personal problems.

A Party official's wife was sick. He asked for time off. It was refused. Suppose a member's home had to be mortgaged to enable him to make his required contribution in a Party fund drive. If he couldn't keep up the mortgage payments to the Party that was just his hard luck.

An old-time member was sent underground. He was instructed to change his name, sell his car and personal belongings, leave his wife and not contact her.

Later, he asked Party permission to visit his family. The

answer: no. He came home anyhow and was severely disciplined.

4. Discrepancies between Party practices and claims.

Persons who join the Party in belief that it is honestly intent in correcting some social evil, such as racial inequality of opportunity or inadequate housing, eventually are disillusioned, if they are not blind. Their eyes are opened, as were Barbara Hartie's, by internal squabbles and feuds, rigged elections, trumped-up evidence.

They discover that Party leaders stay in fancy hotels, or take vacations, while rank-and-file members are hounded to donate the last dollar.

5. Communist tyranny in Russia and behind the Iron Curtain.

The sensational revelations of Khrushchev concerning the crimes of Stalin rocked the Party apparatus. Then came indisputable evidence of anti-Semitism in Russia and in November, 1956, the capping blow to communist pretensions, suppression of Hungary by Soviet troops, with its spectacle of a self-proclaimed leader of "people's rights" physically strangling a people's demand for liberty.

Howard Fast said: "From Hungary and its tragedy we learned of a new kind of socialism—socialism by slaughter and terror."

Another member who had spent over twenty-five years in the communist movement admitted to the FBI that Soviet intervention in Hungary brought things to a head for him. If he were in Hungary, he said, he would be a Freedom Fighter.

6. Communist opposition to religion.

Member after member has related that the Party's claims that the God doesn't exist and that re-

ligion is a myth have eventually stirred his doubts.

Many members carry within their hearts the influence of religious training received while they were young. They find no comfort in and rebel at a materialist solution to life. Marxist doctrine purports to reduce man's problems and destiny to an economic formula.

These, then, are some of the reasons why doubts concerning communism arise in members' minds.

### Reasons Why They Fear To Quit

Why do many still hesitate to break with the Party? The answer: They are still under the influence of false fears.

1. Fear of the FBI.

One member, when interviewed by the FBI, expressed amazement at the cordial treatment accorded him. "I thought you fellows would drag me from my house."

Communists for years have

poured scorn and contempt on the FBI. They try to paint our agents as brutal thugs. One highly placed member visited by the FBI, turned what was expected to be a fifteen-minute interview into a two-hour discussion, during which he said, "The Party considers the FBI its prime enemy and Party members are expected to denounce the FBI."

The FBI wants sincerely to help these individuals. They should feel free to counsel with us.

Communist Party members can be assured that they will be cordially received, not embarrassed, and that their information will be kept strictly confidential, should they so request or if there is good reason to protect their identity.

2. Fear of being regarded as a "stool pigeon."

This fear, played upon by the Party, is today keeping many communists silent.

Our agents asked one Party member, "Suppose a criminal gang kidnaped one of your children. What would you do?" The answer: "Call the FBI." "Would you want the FBI to make inquiries to locate the youngster?" "Yes." "Would you expect citizens having pertinent knowledge of this criminal conspiracy to give that information to the FBI?" "Certainly," he said.

The communist member furnishing information to the FBI is also doing his moral and patriotic duty in helping crush a criminal conspiracy. To remain silent is to assist the Party. Communism, like a criminal gang, thrives when people able to combat it refuse to do so.

3. Fear of personal safety and reputation.

Some members fear the rabid hatred that the Party spews out at members leaving—the "movement."

A West Coast communist, though disillusioned, didn't break with the Party. He feared that his communist friends would

ostracize him. Finally, though hesitatingly, he said he was now willing to "risk" being with the majority of Americans.

Party members should not fear the hostility of their former Party associates. To be denounced by communists is an honor.

4. Fear of disgracing their families.

Many members trapped in the Party without the knowledge of their wives or parents dread that their loved ones will know of their involvement.

One man, asked if his wife and children knew of his communist background, began to cry. Another said he would do anything to keep his young son from knowing.

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5. Fear of not being "received back" as a loyal American.

The answer lies largely with the Party member himself. It is within his power alone to break completely with communism. He will be judged by his actions, not alone by his words.

The biblical advice holds true: "... by their fruits ye shall know them."

PATRIOTIC PERSONS must do their share to help those who have become disillusioned with communism. Some are driven back into the Party by the ignorance and rancor of noncommunists.

It obviously is discouraging to the wavering communist when he hears of reads of the truly reformed communist being characterized as a "renegade" and "traitor" terms which would normally be used by communists themselves.

NEXT WEEK — Taking orders from the Kremlin.

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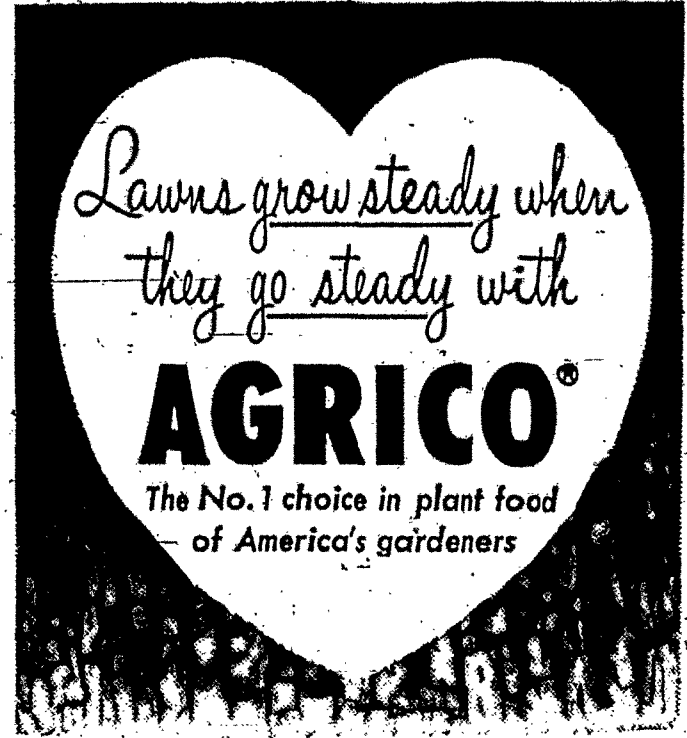
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