

UnAmerican Committee is face-lifted

By Richard Sasuly

Some of my best friends are lawyers. But I would not assume that every lawyer is automatically a liberal and a fair-minded citizen.

The House unAmerican activities committee is going through a face lifting. The committee rules are likely to be changed. And the Democratic majority of five on the committee is to consist solely of lawyers.

Changing the rules might help a little. The only thing that would help a lot would be to kill the committee and bury it 10 or 20 feet under. As for adding lawyers to the committee, I fail to see what that has to do with anything.

The assumption seems to be that the unAmerican committee

lacked dignity. That is true. It also seems to be assumed that the committee flouted judicial procedure. That is also true.

Lawyers may be more dignified than most people. They ought to know more about judicial practice than the rest of us.

But—the committee could be as dignified and judicious as the Supreme Court and it would still be a national disgrace.

The unAmerican committee holds the patent for our times on the big smear. Other committees have borrowed smear tactics, but the unAmericans are the masters of the art. Whether under Martin Dies, John Wood, Parnell Thomas or Wood again, it makes no difference. The un-American activities committee has devoted itself steadfastly to the twin proposition that inde-

pendent thought is dangerous and that ideas can be hidden with a tar brush.

Some of the unAmerican committee smears are widely known. It is general knowledge, for example, that Dr. Edward U. Condon was savagely attacked by the committee and was never given a chance to speak in his own defense.

THE QUICK SMEAR

Some of the other smears are not so well known. A member of Congress, Rep. Franck R. Havenner, the other day had to speak for an hour in the House to defend his own record from committee smears.

Shortly before the November elections the Kersten subcommittee came to San Francisco. Its principal targets were several West coast unions. But a Republican saw a chance to get in a few blows against Havenner. He used the committee hearing as a means of smearing Havenner.

A man who worked with the Republican later admitted to Havenner that he had been to the Republican's office and that they "discussed the issue of labeling Havenner as a red."

SMEAR FAILS—ONCE

The smear failed in this case. But in other cases it has worked well enough to drive people to

jump out of windows. Havenner told the House:

"Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not so much concerned about this clumsy attempt to smear me—because it failed of its purpose at the polls—as I am about the obvious fact that certain unscrupulous politicians in my district have been able repeatedly to use committees of the Congress of the U.S. as tools in a political conspiracy to besmirch the reputation of a member of Congress."

Havenner was also smeared by the old Dies committee, back in 1940. That time it took him four years to find out about the attack. And another four years went by before the present House majority leader, John W. McCormack, announced in June, 1948, that the smear against Havenner had been stricken from the unAmerican committee record.

Franck Havenner is a liberal congressman. As such, he can demand time on the floor of the House. He commands space in the newspapers when he speaks to defend himself. Other liberals are not so lucky. Smears against them can go unchecked. And presence of lawyers on the un-American committee will not help them. The simplest way out would be to kill the committee.

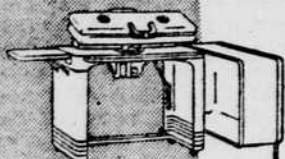
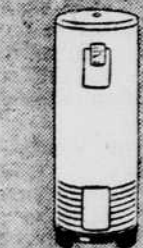


SWIMS FOR HEALTH. Mermaid Terri Hanrahan of New Jersey poses for the camera after being chosen Miss Florida Swim for Health. She can swim, but who cares?

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Tomorrow's China is now today's reality

Reviewed by Avis Davidson

THE great victories of China's People's Armies starting with Mukden's fall two months ago burst on the world as a great surprise. The impact would have been less if this book had found an American publisher sooner.

In the short time since the book was finished and sent to press, Tomorrow's China became today's.

Anna Louise Strong seized the chance provided by American Army planes flying out of Executive Headquarters maintained in Peiping during the "Marshall truce" period in China to fly into North China and Manchuria.

She visited many key points throughout the liberated areas—usually known to Americans as Communist China—remaining altogether about nine months in 1946 and 1947.

She spoke to Chinese Communist Mao tse-tung, military men, soldiers, farmers, city folk, students and teachers. In this short book she reports what she heard and saw of government, army, and social and economic institutions in action.

As in all her writings, her account is marked by deep understanding for common people who take their fate in their own hands.

The book is a travelogue of a society in revolutionary pro-

TOMORROW'S CHINA by Anna Louise Strong. New York. Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy. 65c.

BOOKS

cess, that is converting itself into new forms of democracy, changing Chinese peasants into self-respecting farmers, encouraging non-monopolistic capitalism in its cities, spreading literacy and education, while fighting a civil war with a feudal imperialist-ridden government.

It's no wonder the People's Armies have been a liberating force in the broadest sense, without benefit of modern munitions except what is captured or manufactured in small quantities, and without benefit of contact with the outside world.

Among questions the book answers are: How do the People's Armies succeed with their primitive equipment in battle with Chiang's American-equipped men? Why did Marshall's mission in China fail? What are the proofs of Soviet hands-off policy toward the Chinese Communists?

To quote Mao: "The birth of the atom bomb was the beginning of the death of the American imperialists. For they began to count on the bomb and not on the people. In the end the bomb will not destroy the people. The people will destroy the bomb."

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Protest CTA plan to junk local 'L' line service

The Chicago Transit Authority this week struck a snag in its move to curtail elevated service in various neighborhoods throughout the city. Protests from citizens affected have resulted in a series of public hearings before CTA board members during which "fighting mad" straphangers are presenting their side of the story.

This week, the CTA proposal to close the Princeton and Parnell stations drew fire from the Princeton Avenue Assn. Nicholas L. Cerulli, president, announced his group would go to court if necessary to keep the stations open.

Meanwhile, "L" riders of the Kenwood division united to halt the abandonment of that local line. On the basis of a 3,500-name petition, a hearing has been scheduled for Feb. 8. The Kenwood line serves residents between 40th and Indiana Ave., and east to Drexel Blvd., including white, Negro and Japanese-American passengers.

Spokesmen for the group, stated that opposition to the move was based on the fact that former Kenwood "L" riders would be forced to use trolley buses on 39th St. or streetcars on 43rd St.

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