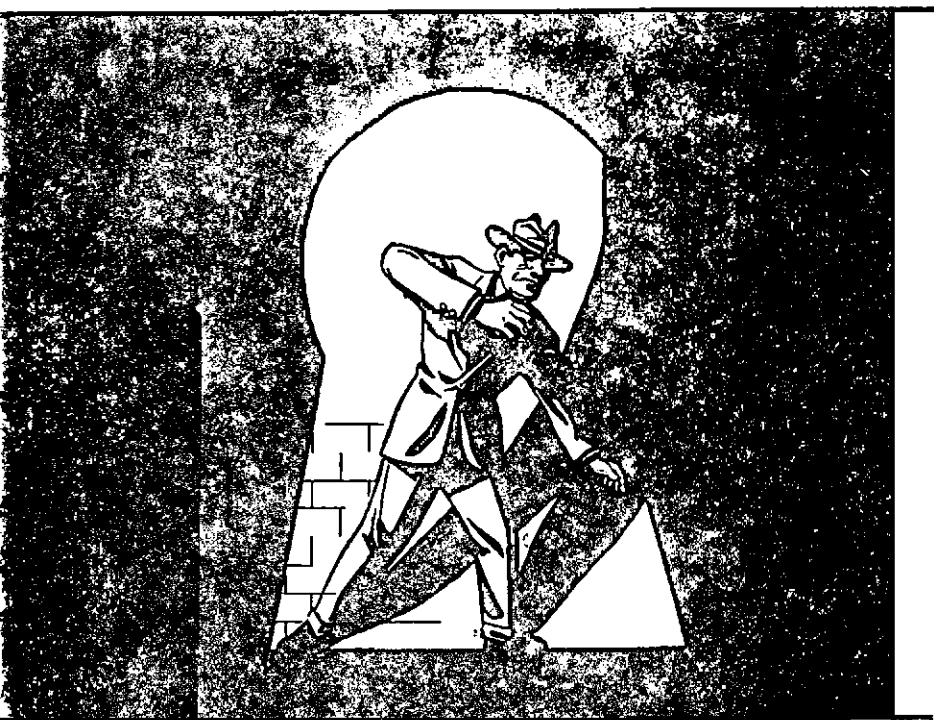


THE *Cabley Johnson*
**PROFESSIONAL
INFORMER**



By **HYMAN LUMER**

10c

"I WANT YOU—

"The whole basis of the prosecution's case will rest on the testimony of paid informers who betrayed their fellow men for money—for thirty pieces of silver."

These words were spoken in court by a prominent Cleveland lawyer, one of the defense counsel in the Smith Act trial of eleven Ohio men and women for "conspiracy to teach and advocate" their political ideas.

Here, once more, is the paid-informer racket in action. Fantastic stories, perjured statements—designed to foster the cold-war atmosphere, keep alive the Big Lie of "force and violence," send innocent men and women to jail.

The Ohio Smith Act trial is another in the shameful series of political frameups which have disgraced our country in recent years. It is the product of forces which seek to destroy the spirit of Geneva and to lead the United States down the road to war and fascism. The perjured professional stoolpigeons are *their* instruments for silencing, not only these defendants, but the entire American people.

Today, growing numbers of Americans are beginning to see through this vicious fraud, and to demand an end to it. Add your voice to theirs.

Write to Attorney General Herbert C. Brownell, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

- *Demand that the Smith Act prosecutions be stopped.*
- *Demand that the paid informer system be abolished.*

You can help, also, by contributing to the defense of the Ohio Smith Act victims. Send your contributions to:

Ohio Committee for Smith Act Defendants

2014 East 105th Street, Room 202, Cleveland 6, Ohio

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Brooklyn-born Dr. Hyman Lumer has lived in Cleveland since 1917, attending Western Reserve University where he earned his Ph.D. in 1935. He taught biology at Western Reserve and at Fenn College, heading the Biology Department at the latter until 1947. For a number of years, up until the outbreak of the war in Korea, in 1950, he was the Educational Director of United Electrical Workers Union, District 7, comprising Ohio and Kentucky. He is the author of *WAR ECONOMY AND CRISIS*, published in 1954, and is presently working on a new study of the problem of automation.

'THIS COULD SPOIL THE WHOLE RACKET, MEN'



Herblock in The Washington Post and Times-Herald

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THE PROFESSIONAL INFORMER

By HYMAN LUMER

Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,

And said unto them. What will ye give me and I will deliver him unto you? And they convenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. (MATTHEW, 26: 14, 15.)

The Judas Tribe

The name of Judas has gone down in history as the universal symbol of that despicable creature, the paid informer.

In the Jewish religion, too, the informer is regarded as the lowest of the low. There is a Jewish prayer known as "The Eighteen." It contains seventeen blessings and one curse. That curse is for the informer. It begins: "And for the informer may there be no hope."

The American people have their own symbol of infamy—the Benedict Arnold, the man who betrays his country for a price. And every American worker looks with the deepest contempt on the "fink," or labor spy.

The informer—the Judas—is despised by all decent people, and with good reason. For he has always been the agent of the oppressors, of the enemies of human rights. At one moment he is the tool of religious persecution, at another of Big Business in its efforts to destroy organized labor. At still another he is the instrument of fascist reaction in its drive to stamp out all political freedom. And always, he is that foul creature who strives to worm his way into the confidence and

trust of others, only to betray them in exchange for his own thirty pieces of silver.

Those who employ spies and stool-pigeons to do their dirty work try to cover up their stench with the perfume of high-sounding titles. The labor spy becomes a "labor consultant," and the FBI stool-pigeon a "special expert." But in spite of everything, the stool-pigeon, the police spy and the agent-provocateur continue to be regarded with loathing and disgust.

A "New Trade"

For many a decade, the American labor movement was infested with armies of labor spies. They were exposed and driven to cover by the investigations of the LaFollette Committee in the thirties. But today another breed—the *government informer*—has become prominent on the American scene. The Department of Justice and other government agencies have come to employ an extensive array of assorted stool-pigeons and spies. Indeed, such informing has emerged as a "new trade"—as a "profession" whose ranks already have become overcrowded.

The government stool-pigeon appears on the witness stand in Smith Act trials, in deportation cases, in the hearings of witch-hunting Congressional committees. He is the "faceless informer" whose mere word is so devastating in "security" purges in industry, in government employment, and in the armed forces. On his testimony rests the establishment of "guilt by association," and even "guilt by kinship" so widely used to fire and blacklist people.

He names names—anybody's name. He has become a monster from whom no one is safe.

The "Patriots"

The true character of the government informer has been diligently covered up. He is palmed off on the public as a "patriotic citizen" who has risked reputation, livelihood and

even life itself to save his country from the "Communist conspiracy." He is given fancy titles. He writes articles and books. His alleged exploits are dramatized on the radio, on television and in the movies. He is held up as an object of civic pride, and is loaded with citations and honors.

But for some time this fraud has become increasingly evident. More and more, the stench of the police spy has penetrated the perfume.

And with the revelations of a Harvey Matusow, the true nature of these informers has been made unmistakably clear, so much so that the government has tried desperately to make Matusow seem an exception. But he is only too typical, as a closer look at these alleged paragons of virtue will show.

A Lucrative Business

A common feature of these high-minded "patriots" is that they are paid—and often very well paid—for their "patriotism."

First, there is the pay they get from the FBI. One stool-pigeon, Mary Stalcup Markward, got \$24,026.45 over a ten-year period, while another, Berenice Baldwin, got \$16,717.51. A third, William G. Cummings, received \$11,023.35 in eight years. And these are only the amounts the FBI *admits* giving them.

They are also well paid for performing on the witness stand. For they appear not as ordinary witnesses who receive a nominal fee, but as "expert consultants" who get \$34 a day in fees and expenses. In two years, Paul Crouch was paid \$9,675 in witness fees, Manning Johnson \$9,096, and John Lautner some \$8,000, excluding expenses.

Then, there is the money to be made from lectures, writing, radio and television, movie rights, etc. Matt Cvetic got \$12,500 for the movie rights to his material, and \$6,500 for a series of magazine articles. In his heyday as an informer, his take averaged between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Louis Budenz has received since 1945, in addition to witness fees, over \$60,000—about \$20,000 for magazine articles,

\$17,000 from royalties on books, and \$24,000 for lectures. And all this on top of a "professor's" salary from Fordham University.

Such is the "self-sacrifice" of these stool-pigeons. As Harvey Matusow said, "it was a good racket."

"A Right-Minded Man Refuses Such a Job"

No less than the private stool-pigeon, the average government informer turns out to be a degenerate, corrupt character, ready, in Matusow's words, "to do anything for a buck." As Federal Judge Anderson once said: "I cannot adopt the contention that government spies are any more trustworthy or less disposed to make trouble in order to profit thereby than are spies in private industry. . . . A right-minded man refuses such a job."

The "respectable" college professor, Budenz, was guilty of bigamy. So, too, was his fellow stool-pigeon, Cummings. Matt Cvetic was once convicted of beating up his wife's sister. Another Pittsburgh stoolie, Joseph Mazzei, was convicted of adultery and bastardy, and was recently jailed for failure to provide support for his child.

William H. Teto was arrested several times for larceny. Charles Nicodemus was arrested in Pittsburgh with a woman companion, with two guns in their possession. They were let off with only the payment of court costs; shortly thereafter he became a stool-pigeon.

Many more examples can be cited, and there is an even greater number yet to be unearthed. Clearly, *a rat is a rat no matter who pays him.*

All Stool-Pigeons Are Liars

When Harvey Matusow confessed he had lied repeatedly on the witness stand, Attorney General Brownell insisted that he was an exception. But the fact is that habitual lying is the

mark of *all* informers. Over and over, government informers have been caught in flat contradictions and outright lies.

Consider, for example, the testimony of Paul Crouch regarding David Davis, a Philadelphia Smith Act defendant. At the trial of Harry Bridges, in 1949, Crouch told the court flatly. "I have never heard of David Davis." But in the Smith Act trial in 1951, he said he not only knew Davis, but that between 1935 and 1941 he had met with him no less than three to four times a year!

All in all, Crouch has been caught in so many barefaced fabrications that Attorney General Brownell was finally forced to announce he would be investigated for perjury (an investigation which has been quietly buried away).

In the 1936 Bridges trial, Manning Johnson testified that Bridges was at a Communist Party convention in New York at a time when witnesses and newspaper reports proved conclusively that he was actually at a union meeting in Stockton, California. (Johnson was never prosecuted for perjury.)

Of Louis Budenz, Senator Dennis Chavez said on the Senate floor (May 22, 1950) that he "could pass no test of credibility." And he added: "I think everything he said is false. . . . Most of his testimony had ulterior motives. He doesn't care whether it was true or false."

Elizabeth Bentley, self-styled "spy queen," has been exposed as a persistent liar. Her testimony against former Treasury official William Henry Taylor has been shown to be full of contradictions and discrepancies. Typical of these is her statement that she had received secret material from Taylor during the war, whereas in a recent civil suit she had testified that *she never even saw him until May 17, 1954!*

These are but a few examples. The list is endless.

"Patriotic" Perjury

Not only do these informers repeatedly perjure themselves, but they have more than once readily admitted it, and on

occasion have even tried to justify it on high moral grounds of patriotism.

In a Subversive Activities Control Board hearing, Manning Johnson admitted lying and defended it as follows:

Q. In other words, you will tell a lie under oath in a court of law rather than run counter to your instructions from the FBI. Is that right?

A. If the interests of my government are at stake. In the face of enemies, at home and abroad, if maintaining the secrecy of the techniques of methods of operation of the FBI who have responsibility for the protection of our people, I say I will do it a thousand times.

Thus is perjury elevated to the level of a patriotic principle!

Flights of Fantasy

The average informer is a cold-blooded, deliberate liar. Yet the fanciful yarns spun by some of them would easily take first prize in any Liar's Club. And some are, by their own admission, given to concocting fantastic stories in their private lives.

Harry Gold, the self-styled "atom bomb spy," whose testimony helped to send the Rosenbergs to the electric chair, admitted on the witness stand that, although he was never married, he had cooked up an amazing tale of romance, marriage, children and ultimate divorce, which he recounted to his employer, fellow employees, friends and acquaintances over a period of six years.

Back in 1925, Crouch told an army court-martial: "I am in the habit of writing letters to my friends and imaginary persons, sometimes to kings and other foreign persons, in which I place myself in an imaginary position. I do that to develop my imaginary powers."

Yet such individuals have been placed on the stand as

credible witnesses, even as "experts." And these "experts" have shown themselves capable of the weirdest flights of the imagination. Crouch, a few years ago, filed with the McCarthy committee a bizarre memorandum describing a plot to subvert the entire military establishment, which he claims he hatched with none other than the former Soviet Marshal Tukhachevsky, shot as a traitor to the Soviet Union several years before World War II.

Another stoolie, Thaddeus Mason, got newspaper headlines when he told a Senate committee a story of a complete photographic apparatus, used for microfilming blueprints for espionage purposes, which was allegedly concealed in the cafeteria basement of the GM Diesel Motor plant in Cleveland. It turned out, however, that the cafeteria in this plant *has no basement*. Mason himself later admitted he was lying, but he was never prosecuted and the matter was hushed up.

A striking indication of the mental state of some of these informers is the case of Matt Cvetic. Widely used as a witness and played up as a hero, he turns out to be a chronic alcoholic and mental depressive. In March, 1955, he was admitted to the psychiatric ward of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Pittsburgh. The diagnosis was "depressive reaction (anxiety), alcohol addiction." He was kept for several weeks and given shock treatments. The record, moreover, shows a long history of these symptoms.

Why Do They Lie?

Why do these stool-pigeons play so fast and loose with the truth? To be sure, such a "career" appeals only to the most corrupt, unscrupulous individuals to begin with. But this is only a small part of the answer.

They are, of course, encouraged to lie by the very nature of their job. Informers are paid for information, and their pay is in proportion to what they deliver. The more information, the more money.

What happens when the informer begins to run dry, when he runs out of names to rattle off? Obviously, if he wants to maintain his usefulness and his income, he must continue to "remember" more names, more incidents with each passing day.

Many years ago, the reactionary Prussian Prime Minister Bismarck complained to his wife:

Owing to lack of material, police agents lie and exaggerate outrageously. . . . Bad characters among them—good characters do not accept such posts—naturally hit upon the idea that if other people will not attempt any crimes, they must be helped. For if it is impossible for them to report that something is doing, they become superfluous, and of course no one wants to be superfluous. So they help out, "correcting fortune," as the French adage has it.

To "correct fortune," the informer lies his head off. "To make a record," the Ohio stool-pigeon, John V. Blanc, testified that he faked names, meetings and other items in his reports to the FBI.

Even more, the informer becomes an agent-provocateur, instigating the things he reports. Thus, both Blanc and Cummings admitted recruiting a number of people, including their own relatives, into the Communist Party and then reporting their names to the FBI.

Clearly, since Bismarck's day nothing has changed with regard to the Judas profession. But this is still only part of the story.

Paid to Lie

Most important of all, stool-pigeons lie *because they are hired to lie*. This the Department of Justice and the FBI have tried at all costs to conceal. But at long last, the truth is beginning to come to light.

In his confessions, Harvey Matusow revealed that he was coached to lie. In an affidavit, he stated that his testimony against the Smith Act Defendant Alexander Trachtenberg had been fabricated in collusion with Roy Cohn, then Assistant United States Attorney, and others.

Matusow had testified that Trachtenberg once referred to a passage "inciting revolution" in a book by Andrei Vishinsky, entitled *The Law of the Soviet State*. But the affidavit relates that "in several sessions with Cohn, *we developed the answer which I gave in my testimony, tying Trachtenberg to that passage. We both knew that Trachtenberg had never made the statements which I attributed to him in my testimony.*" (Emphasis added.—H.L.)

On the basis of perjurious testimony, flagrantly and deliberately fabricated and utterly unreliable, both Trachtenberg and another defendant, George Blake Charney, were granted new trials.

Other informers have also confessed to the "development" of their testimony by government agents. Not long ago, the Federal Communications Commission conducted lengthy hearings in an effort to show that Edward O. Lamb, Toledo publisher and broadcaster, had once had Communist associations. Two of the witnesses against him afterward admitted faking their testimony.

One, Lowell Watson, confessed that he had been coached to say what he did by FCC attorney Walter R. Powell, Jr., and others, among them the stool-pigeon, Cummings. A second, Mrs. Marie Natvig, swore that she had been coerced by Powell into giving false testimony against Lamb.

A third witness, Emmett Lee Wheaton, submitted an affidavit to the effect that Cummings had tried to bribe him. The affidavit stated: "On the way across the highlevel bridge, Cummings said to me, 'If you will let your memory remember Lamb's being at the Lincoln House, on the platform, and pledging to give money to the cause of the Communist Party, it will be worth \$1,000 to you and all your expenses paid if it goes to a hearing.'"

Still another repentant informer, David Brown, when asked whether he had lied in his reports to the FBI, testified: "That's what I was paid to do by the FBI."

The FBI scrupulously protects its stool-pigeons from prosecution for their lies. It is many long months since Attorney General Brownell announced that Crouch and others were to be investigated for perjury, but nothing more has ever been



FBI
WENT
FOR
LIES

"ONE WORD OF THE TRUTH AND I'LL HAVE YOU JAILED
FOR OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE!"

heard of it. This is hardly surprising, however, for such an investigation would mean *investigating the Justice Department itself*, as the employer and instigator of perjurers.

The government's protection of these perjurers stands in sharp contrast with the vilification and persecution of their victims. It stands in sharp contrast also with the zeal with which Brownell prosecutes those informers who confess their lies.

Matusow and Natvig have been indicted, not for their original fabrications, but in effect, *for lying in confessing that they had committed perjury*. What clearer warning could be issued to other stool-pigeons of what awaits them if they, too, should be tempted to give the game away?

The Myth of "Force and Violence"

That stool-pigeons are paid to lie is not at all surprising, for they are hired for the purpose of perpetrating frameups. They are used by reaction in its drive to impose thought control on the American people, a drive embodied in police state laws like the Smith, McCarran and Communist Control Acts, in deportations, witch-hunts, security checks, etc.

These things reaction tries to justify through the Big Lie that Communists are engaged in a conspiracy to overthrow the American government by force and violence. The main use of paid informers is to help foist this lie on the people.

This is the myth which is "developed" in their testimony with the connivance of a diligent secret police and eager prosecutors, yearning for promotion to judgeships. On the witness stand, the informers glibly rattle off story after story of meetings, classes, discussions, at each of which some Communist leader is described as advocating force and violence.

But more and more, these stories are being exposed as fakes. In the Denver Smith Act trial one informer, Warren Fortson, testified under oath about six meetings at which force and violence were allegedly advocated. Under cross-examination, the defense was able to force the FBI to produce the

written reports submitted by Fortson after each of these meetings. *Not one report mentioned a single instance of such advocacy.* And earlier, in the Philadelphia Smith Act trial, the prosecution was willing to stipulate that "the words 'force and violence' do not appear" in any of the reports made by one of its stool-pigeons, Harold Mosher, over a period of three years.

Similarly, Federal Judge Edward Dimock said of Matusow's numerous reports to the FBI: "In not one of these is there a statement of any advocacy by the American Communist Party or any of its members of the duty of overthrowing the Government of the United States by force and violence." Yet, Matusow's testimony in court was full of such statements.

In all these cases, we are asked to believe that such a thing as incitement to force and violence, an offense serious enough to bring people to trial even years later, was not important enough at the time to be mentioned in a single report, and this by police agents supposedly on the lookout for this very thing! The conclusion is inescapable: these witnesses were *helped* to "remember." Their stories on the stand were all "developed"—that is, faked from beginning to end.

The Power of the Informer

The paid informer has grown into a destructive power in our midst. He has but to open his mouth and all tremble. His unsupported word can destroy careers; blacklist people, or send them to prison or even to the electric chair. It is enough for him to "remember" that the intended victim—or even one of his relatives—has been associated, however remotely, with some proscribed organization or activity. No evidence is required, and often *he need not even confront the accused.*

What is the source of this sinister power? Clearly, it does not reside in the informer himself. He is only the tool of the secret police. Says one of their number, Whittaker Chambers:

"The informer . . . risks little, sits in security and

uses his special knowledge to destroy others. . . . The police protect him. When they whistle, he fetches them a soiled bone of information. . . . He is no longer a free man."

The informer's power comes from outside, seemingly inflicted on the people by some malignant despotism. But in reality, this power for evil exists fundamentally because the people have been deceived and fallen victim to anti-Communist hysteria, to the twin Big Lies of "Communist conspiracy" and "Soviet aggression," bred by the cold war and the growth of McCarthyism. The rise of the informer system was made possible only after Big Business put over the McCarthyite thesis that Communists are outside the protection of the Constitution and the law of the land.

But if Communists, under cloak of the charge of "force and violence," can be prosecuted simply for what they think and advocate, then the use of informers becomes justified. As Richard R. Donnelly says (*Yale Law Review*, November, 1951):

"If political agitation is made criminal, spies are indispensable. For in no other way can the offense be detected. . . . This dirty business is the price a government pays for the suppression of political dissent."

Thus is forged the weapon to be used to destroy democracy for all, to convict anyone who has ever been guilty of an unorthodox idea or remark. Thus is every American placed at the mercy of the paid perjurer, who stands ready to finger anyone his employers may designate.

The entire informer system is a product of the cold war and the accompanying drive to silence all who oppose the war hysteria and stand for peace. It is an indispensable weapon of those who seek to impose fascism on our country.

The cult of the informer is essential to fascism. The police

state cannot exist without informers, without an all-pervading atmosphere of fear, in which no one dares to speak his mind lest he be overheard and reported to the secret police.

The Police State: A Nation of Informers

Thought-control laws breed informers. Everyone is driven, as a "patriotic duty," or simply to save his own skin, to spy and inform on his friends, his neighbors, and even his own family. Nazi Germany became just such a nation of informers. And this is the direction in which McCarthyite reaction seeks to drive the American people today.

The informer is glorified. The FBI urges all Americans, as a patriotic duty, to report anything "suspicious" in the conduct of their neighbors. Even more, there is an unending search for new stool-pigeons.

Just as in the heyday of the labor spy, there were "hookers" constantly on the lookout for recruits—people who needed money, who held a grudge, who had a criminal record, or who feared prosecution—so today swarms of FBI agents are busily engaged in visiting all sorts of people, in seeking out potential recruits to their staff of professional stool-pigeons, whether by intimidation, bribes, blackmail, or prospects of easy notoriety.

The pressure to inform has grown enormously. In the entertainment field, the condition for escaping the blacklist is increasingly to become a stool-pigeon one's self—to name names. And in the New York school system, readiness to inform on one's colleagues has actually been made a condition of employment.

The effect on government employees in general has been disastrous. For a number of years, Washington has been a city of fear, in which no one dares to speak out. The same is true of our schools and colleges, where controversial subjects are carefully avoided, not only in classrooms but even in private conversations.

Along with all this, the use of private informers, spies and undercover agents has grown to alarming proportions. Of

this, William S. Fairfield and Charles Clift wrote in *The Reporter* (February 10, 1955). . . . o

The American community, from giant corporations and labor unions down to the man next door, has simply translated the government's cold-war suspicions into a corresponding set of private suspicions. And a unique form of free enterprise, the private-detective business, has sallied forth to satisfy the new public demand. . . .

Nationally, the field has expanded . . . to a vast complex of more than five thousand agencies employing 150,000 people and taking in about \$250 million a year.

No Immunity

From this deadly plague, no one is immune. More than two years ago, McCarthy's "twenty years of treason" blast at the Democratic Party gave notice of the real targets of the stool-pigeon system. So did the persecution of Owen Lattimore, John Carter Vincent, Harry Dexter White, and many other liberals and New Dealers.

Stool-pigeons themselves care little whose names they bandy about. For a buck, they will name anyone. Matusow admitted that in his work for the smear outfit, *Counterattack*, he deliberately faked blacklists, putting down names of scores of people he never knew.

The Negro people, always the most persecuted, have been subjected to more than their share of attack. A dramatic illustration is the case of Mrs. Annie Lee Moss, a government employee, who was singled out by McCarthy for such venomous assault that other Senators were impelled to come to her aid. Another example is the disgraceful attempt of the professional perjurers, Leonard Patterson and Manning Johnson, to smear Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, noted Negro leader and assistant secretary-general of the United Nations.

In the code of McCarthyism, the very demand for equal rights for Negroes is itself "subversive" and a "Communist plot." Witness, for example, the shocking prosecution of Carl Braden and several other white residents of Louisville, Kentucky, for sedition, *simply on the grounds that they helped a Negro family obtain a home in a white community.*

Menace to Labor

Above all, the government spy system presents a deadly threat to organized labor, no less than did the old labor spy racket. For FBI stoolies also play the role of labor spies.

In Hawaii, a few years ago, two FBI agents approached a friend of Jack Hall, International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union organizer, indicted (and since convicted) under the Smith Act. They offered a deal. All charges against Hall would be dropped if he would lead a movement to split and destroy the longshore union. But the friend had installed concealed recording equipment; and the recorded conversation was later broadcast over the radio by the union.

A part of Matusow's unholy career was devoted to union-busting. In his book, *False Witness*, he writes: "In Ohio I cooperated with management and its attempt to rid itself of the 'trouble makers' in the unions. I worked behind the scenes with the Ohio commission (on un-American activities) and General Motors' Frigidaire Division, the Master Electric Company, the GHR Foundry, and others."

Other government stool-pigeons played the same shabby role. Cummings became a labor spy before he joined the Communist Party as an FBI plant. John V. Blanc, of Cleveland, informed on fellow workers at the Park Drop Forge plant. He even induced seven of them to join the Communist Party "as a personal favor" to him, then turned their names over to the FBI.

In the Detroit Smith Act trial, stool-pigeon Steve Schemanski disclosed that during the time he operated as an informer within the Communist Party, he was also secretly em-

ployed in the notorious Ford Service Department to spy on other workers for the company.

With the growth of McCarthyism, workers in industry have been increasingly subjected to all sorts of loyalty checks and screenings. And the Butler Bill, introduced in the last session of Congress, was intended to make it universal.

Testifying for the UAW against this bill, Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., head of Americans for Democratic Action, stated that whereas today we have the "secret informer and the stool-pigeon utilized against our soldiers and against workers with access to defense information," the Butler Bill would establish a "general surveillance over the workers of our nation."

The anti-labor character of the government stool-pigeon is therefore not accidental. It is an integral part of his role, as a tool of fascist reaction, to help in establishing industrial blacklists, and in bringing about the ultimate destruction of organized labor.

The Racket Exposed

For a long time, the acceptance of the Big Lie of "Communist conspiracy" misled many Americans into swallowing the FBI's picture of its paid rats as patriots and heroes. And many people, despite their natural revulsion against this type of scum, tended for a time to regard the government informer as a necessary evil, even if not as actually deserving of praise. But now, thanks to the revelations of Matusow and others, the lid has been blown off and millions of Americans have begun to see through the informer hoax.

An editorial in the March, 1955, issue of *Textile Labor*, organ of the CIO Textile Workers' Union, comments:

It seems to us that the important thing about Matusow isn't when he lied or how much he lied, but the big, Rotary Club-type welcome he got from the Department of Justice when he was lying for profit. . . . It's high time we all remembered that the De-

partment of Justice, and the public prosecutors of every degree, are not employed to get convictions but to protect the public interest . . . and they very definitely are not supposed to manufacture Matusow-type evidence to fit a preconceived notion of the facts. If the Matusow case makes this clear, we will all be safer.

Anthony J. Federoff, president of the Pittsburgh CIO Industrial Union Council, attacked the "reckless" testimony of these "so-called 'undercover agents'" as "converting our investigative system into a farce." Richard H. Rovere, writing in *Harper's Magazine* (May, 1955), concludes that "the kept witnesses have been given an opportunity to foul American due process and quite a bit else, besides." The famous author, John Steinbeck (*Saturday Review*, April 2, 1955) notes with approval that the public has begun to ridicule stool-pigeons instead of being terrified by them.

The resolution on civil rights passed at the 1955 convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, states that "the government in its security-loyalty cases is relying too much on paid professional informers. The Federal Government's use of such informers is odious and we condemn it. Their use is especially vicious because again and again these informers have been proven to be perjured and utterly unreliable."

In a growing number of cases, judges are disinclined to accept the stories of informers. Thus, an appeals court opinion, in dismissing a deportation order against Matthew Brzovich, rejected the testimony of the sole witness, Matt Cvetic, saying that "it is inherent in the findings (of the hearing officer) . . . that he regarded the testimony of the witness as unbelievable and incredible."

In Los Angeles, Federal Judge Leon Yankwich, refusing to accept a paid informer as an "expert" on Communism, stated:

"I won't take his opinion on what the Communist Party taught. And I won't take the opinions of the big name experts such as Paul Crouch, Harvey Matusow, Louis Budenz or Max Eastman. I want facts, not opinion."

In a 2 to 1 decision rendered on October 26 by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the majority opinion, written by Judge Walter L. Pope and concurred in by Judge Thomas F. McAlister, held that hundreds of seamen and longshoremen, "screened" by the U.S. Coast Guard *with the help of finger-men and stool-pigeons*, were denied "due process" and robbed of Constitutional rights. This important Federal decision denounced "a system under which unidentified informers are encouraged to make unchallengeable statements about their neighbors," and warned against "a day when substantially everyone will have to contemplate the possibility that his neighbors are encouraged to make reports to the FBI about what he says, what he reads and what meetings he attends."

A shattering blow was dealt the vast Federal "security" dragnet and the government's informer system when Judge Pope posed the question: *"Is this system of secret informers, whisperers and talebearers of such vital importance to the public welfare that it must be preserved at the cost of denying to the citizen even a modicum of the protection traditionally associated with due process?"*

To sum it up, distrust of the professional informer is mounting on all sides. And this is not merely because a Matusow seemingly was afflicted with pangs of conscience.

Basically, it is due to the fact that with the easing of international tensions and growing prospects of peaceful coexistence, especially since the Geneva Conference, people are less prone to fall for the lies of the McCarthyite warmongers, and are far less affected by anti-Communist hysteria.