Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Gearty
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

Ivan H. Peterman

Ex-First Lady Still Wrong On Commies

AS ONE of the veteran hands at confusing the already complex, isn't it about time to award an Oscar, or possibly a "Boris," to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt for her persistent aids to the Communist conspiracy? This good lady bakes to the proof of how they were comin' in the doors and crawling through the windows when she was Mistress of the White House.

The other day Dame Roosevelt's syndicated "My Day" contained a complaint that much of the exposure of Reds was being accomplished through the testimony of their ex-Communist pals. She intimated they might not always be reliable, and what a pity the FBI must depend upon the Budenz and Lautner type of witness.

Mrs. R also sought to "soften" the fact that certain clergymen signed petitions opposing execution of the Rosenbergs for atomic spying. She suggested they did so primarily because they were against capital punishment. But unlike a good reporter, she failed to look around to check if they before or since Rosenbergs troubled to sign such petitions for others condemned to die.

• • •

THE FBI, as Mrs. R well knows, employs plenty of others in ferreting out Commies and their stooges. Men like Herbert Philbrick, whose writings sometimes appear beside Mrs. Roosevelt's column, have explained how the clergy have been infiltrated and why J. B. Matthews was quite right when he listed off names of infiltrators.

It is true that many of the informers are one-time Communists who got a belly-full. The converted clergy have more zeal and determination. Why does the Government employ them? Because non-Communists starting with Franklin D. Roosevelt have not stepped up as real anti-Communists and took what they could on this last subject.

Is there anyone from the later Roosevelt administrations in a better position to call the Red roll or the subversive list, than she who acted as their hostess so many times? What about the youth groups, the Pinko Hollywood punks, the over-age Red roosters who camped and crowed for nearly 20 years in reception rooms once visited by old-style Americans? Who heard their pro-Soviet chirps oftener than Mrs. R. in a day when some agencies in Washington opened WPA meetings by singing the "Internationale"?

• • •

THESE characters hung around Mrs. Roosevelt because she invited them, and because she liked them. And they didn't talk about clothes or cooking, or even travel, for which she was noted. They talked about "the brave new world"—with that Red rainbow wrapped around it.

Henry Wallace, Harry Hopkins, Sidney Hillman and the rest, including the elegant-mannered like Alger Hiss, they had free access in the war days. Less funny-minded people paid little attention; why, even at frontline command posts in Africa and Europe, the Army accommodated correspondents I realized were then and still are as Red as those on Pravda.

• • •

SMEARS against the investigators, particularly those headed by Senator McCarthy, are not going over with most of the American people. Those who make them might as well recognize that fact. They only hem in themselves by attacking the investigators while forgetting to rip into those exposed and often hoisted from the Government positions.

Mrs. Roosevelt has perhaps more sources and access to truth on these matters than anyone writing on the subject today. Yet she adds to the smog and the [illegible] of us to the mandate by landslide majority which [illegible] among other charges that Reds in Government [illegible] cased out.

RE: CP MATTERS

4/24/53
PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
COLUMN:
LATE
STAR

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____

Bureau

8 JAN 1 1954