of social evolution in general, and in the first place, the social evolution of the U. S. . . .

And he added:

> . . . one is witnessing a notorious revision of Marxism on the part of Browder and his supporters, a revision which is expressed in the concept of a long term class peace in the United States, of the possibility of the suppression of the class struggle in the postwar period and of establishment of harmony between labor and capital.

The voice of Duclos was recognized by the American Communists as the voice of authority. The same men who had supported Browder in the meeting in Studio 11 now turned against him. Browder was voted out as General Secretary and Foster stepped into the Party leadership. The Communist Political Association was tossed aside and the Communist Party of the United States of America was reestablished in July, 1945. The Party was back in business at the old stand.

In gathering intelligence information on the Communists, the FBI was in a position to see how a few Party members could influence the actions of a great number of people merely by being in key positions. An example of this happened in 1943, when the CIO held its national convention in Philadelphia at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel.

FBI agents discovered that the Communist Party had set up headquarters in the St. James Hotel, where a member of the Party's National Committee huddled with the Party faction leaders to determine their strategy and tactics and discuss the CIO's executive board decisions. After the convention's resolutions committee had approved the resolutions to be placed before the delegates, the only existing rough drafts were brought to the Communist Party's command post.

The rough drafts were read to the National Committeeman, who changed the phrasing of some and then gave instructions on the sequence in which the resolutions should be presented to the convention in order to get the emphasis desired by the Party. After the rough drafts were changed, they were sent to the printers.

The FBI was frequently attacked for making investigations into Communist activities and at times for making loyalty checks at the request of other agencies.

In one case, the story went the rounds in Washington that the FBI had been "caught" investigating Edith B. Helm, social secretary to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Malvina Thompson, Mrs. Roosevelt's personal secretary. And it was added that Mrs. Roosevelt had taken the FBI to task.

The facts in the case were that William H. McReynolds, Secretary

of the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense—and a White House secretary—sent a letter to the Attorney General on July 11, 1940, asking for a loyalty check on several persons. Enclosing a list of names, McReynolds wrote:

> It is the President's desire, and that of the Commission, that a careful check be made with respect to each individual involved, but particularly those on the first section of the list, for the purpose of making sure that these persons are dependable and justify the trust placed in them . . .

Three months later another list of fifteen names was sent over by McReynolds' assistant with a written request that the FBI "institute an investigation." One of the names on the list was Edith B. Helm. Since the request came from an office in the White House, the check was made.

When the news of the investigation leaked out, criticism was heaped on the FBI. Hoover wrote to Major General Edwin M. Watson, the President's secretary, explaining how the inquiry had developed, and he sent a similar letter to Mrs. Roosevelt. Mrs. Roosevelt replied that she was surprised by the investigation of Mrs. Helm and that someone had been making inquiries about the private affairs of Miss Thompson. "This type of investigation seems to me to smack too much of the Gestapo methods," Mrs. Roosevelt said, "[and] seems to me to show inefficiency on the part of the person who ordered it."

Hoover wrote Mrs. Roosevelt there had been no investigation of Miss Thompson by the FBI and that the FBI had nothing to do with Mrs. Helm's name being on the list received from the White House. He agreed the investigation of Mrs. Helm "indicated inefficiency upon the part of the person who ordered it," but said that the order had not originated with the FBI and the investigation had been handled in routine fashion.

The Helm incident was only a flurry, but it was a small warning of the difficulties and misunderstandings that would develop in the government's investigations of its employees during the Cold War that was to come.

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