

RACE-MIXING CENTER UNDER FIRE

Highlander Director Says School Not Communist, But in Same Field

By JACK NELSON

Journal-Constitution Staff Writer

MONTEAGLE, Tenn., Dec. 14.

About two miles from this mountain resort is a small institution where race mixers plan the fight against segregation in the South.

Its name - Highlander Folk School - has an innocuous ring that belies its controversial record of involvement in labor and racial strife.

Highlander's current activities are concentrated on training large numbers of whites and Negroes to touch off integration attempts throughout the South.

Myrie Horton, director and one of the founders of Highlander, acknowledges that the school has been connected with most integration attempts since the U.S. Supreme Court decision of 1954 prohibiting public school segregation.

THE SCHOOL WAS established in September, 1932, by Horton and Donald L. West, a Georgian with a long record of affiliations with Communist front groups.

It didn't take the school long to establish itself as a center of controversial social philosophy.

On Dec. 15, 1932, the Grundy County Board of Education barred Highlander from using county school buildings because of alleged teaching of political matter that was "Red or Communist in appearance."

The school has continued under close surveillance by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Horton himself says, "I've been investigated so much the FBI knows my record for 25 years."

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Editor: JOEL HUFF  
Re: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
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HORTON NOTLY states that for the school has ever had any connection with communism.

"I got a passport to go to Europe this past summer," he said. "I had to sign an affidavit saying I was never a Communist to get the passport."

Horton explains the FBI investigations by saying, "We're in the same field the Communists are in - we just use different methods." Asked to elaborate, he said:

"They say they are interested in social equality. We're interested in social equality."

Highlander hit the headlines two months ago when the Georgia Commission on Education published a four-page newspaper-size report charging that the institution is a "Communist training school."

THE COMMISSION, set up by the Georgia Legislature to help preserve segregation, charged that Highlander's race mixing plans are part of a communist scheme to create strife.

As "proof," the commission reported that a number of persons who had been connected with Highlander also had been connected with organizations labeled as communist fronts by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

BUT THE RECORD should be set straight on one thing:

There was no cloak-and-dagger work necessary to get the information compiled by the Georgia Commission on Education.

T. V. Williams Jr., the commission's executive secretary claimed that the commission's report on the integration workshop held at Highlander over the Labor Day weekend was based on information gained by Ed Friend, a state employe, who "infiltrated" the sessions.

Williams made it appear that the integration sessions were super secret.

Actually, the meetings were open to the press and were covered by Tennessee newsmen. Friend registered at the school as an employe of the State of Georgia.

As for the subversive organizations listed by the report which was signed by Gov. Marvin Griffin as commission chairman, they are a matter of public record and have been for some time.

THE GEORGIA REPORT named one known communist - Abner W. Berry, a Negro identified as an official of the American Communist Party and a reporter for the Daily Worker - as being in attendance at the Labor Day integration workshop.

Horton claims he did not know Berry until introduced to him by Georgia's own Ed Friend, the "undercover" agent. Berry enrolled at the workshop as a freelance writer, Horton declared.

Horton blasted Gov. Griffin for sending a "stoopigoon" to Highlander and said the Georgia governor might also be guilty of "planting Berry, an alleged Communist, at the school."

"I say 'alleged' because he could be working for the FBI," Horton said.

The Georgia report showed a picture of Berry and three other persons, one of whom it identified as Ralph Heistein, president of United Packinghouse Workers of America.

Heistein, who participated in the integration workshop as a panelist discussing labor union experience in integration, blasted "the governor of Georgia's deceitful attempt to make the fight for

desegregation appear to be a Communist monopoly."

"The flagrant dishonesty of the governor's alleged report," Heistein said, "is apparent in a caption appearing under a photograph which purports to identify me as one of a group including a person said to be a Communist Party member by the name of Berry."

"I don't know Berry or whether he even appears in the picture, for I have never met the man; but I do know that I am not the person whom the caption identified as me."

That Highlander has been extremely active in some of the same fields as the Communists is obvious.

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**WHETHER THE** school has been guilty of communistic activity is another question—one that has hounded Highlander ever since that December day 25 years ago when it was barred from using local school buildings.

During the depression, Highlander engaged in vigorous union organizing campaigns and brought down upon itself the wrath of business leaders.

Highlander's labor efforts soon became the object of a congressional investigation. And on Nov. 30, 1942, U.S. Rep. Martin Dies, chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, listed Highlander as "decidedly communistic."

**THREE YEARS AGO** a former Communist testified at a hearing of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee in New Orleans, that Highlander was working

in close cooperation with the Communist Party.

Sen. James Eastland (D-Miss.), subcommittee chairman, had Myles Horton ousted from the same hearing after the Highlander director refused to answer whether James Dombrowski was affiliated with the school. Dombrowski, who has been a member of numerous organizations labeled "subversive," was with Highlander at one time.

Succeeding articles on Highlander will go into more detail on this hearing, previous investigations and the school's part in the turbulent labor movement.

Highlander has not been without its staunch defenders, some of them nationally prominent.

**ON THE WALL** in the office of Highlander's main building is a letter on White House stationery to Dombrowski, who was on Highlander's staff from 1934 until 1942. The letter begins, "My Dear Mr. Dombrowski:

"I am sending you the same amount as I sent you last year as my contribution toward a scholarship in the Highlander Folk School.

"I have had the school checked by people in whom I have absolute confidence and am convinced that the newspaper attack and the groups which have been opposed to you are not opposed to you because of any Communist activities, but because they are opposed to labor organization, and, therefore labor education.

"This seems to me a most unwise and shortsighted attitude and, therefore, I am urging support. I hope this spring

to come down to see the school myself."

The letter was signed, "Very truly yours, Eleanor Roosevelt." It was dated February 1941.

**HORTON SAYS** Mrs. Roosevelt still contributes to the school. "We got a letter from her just the other day," he said.

John Dewey, who was head of the philosophy department at Columbia University in New York, was chairman of Highlander's Committee of Sponsors until his death four years ago, according to Horton.

Horton said that Dewey and Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr of Union Theological Seminary in New York both advised him in the founding of Highlander. He studied under both educators. Dr. Niebuhr still supports the Highlander.

Horton said that while Highlander has become accustomed to being criticized, "we've never had anything as low-level as Gov. Griffin's smear happen to us before."

"But we've weathered storms before," Horton said. "Griffin ought to read the record. We've gone through much more effective smear tactics than this."

Horton said it is "dangerous tactics" for Griffin and other segregationists to "identify every integration movement in the South as Communistic."

**HE SAID THE** Highlander report by the Georgia Commission on Education was "calculated to keep people away from the school, but 'it's not scaring people.' He said 60 persons attended the Thanksgiving Day weekend workshop although only 20 were invited.

The short-run effect of the Georgia report has been to increase contributions to Highlander by three times," according to Horton.

"I don't know about the long-range affect," he said. "Some people are hesitating now to be identified with the school because of the smear."

Highlander is supported by contributions from individuals, or-

ganizations served by the school, foundations and tuition.

**MONDAY** in The Atlanta Con-

stitution: Former Communist or-

ganization testified that it was not connected with Communist Party.



Staff Photo—Charles Pugh

**MYLES HORTON, DIRECTOR OF HIGHLANDER**  
He Says School Has No Connection With Communism

Highlander Folk School

Red Activity Charge Blamed on a Grudge

By JACK NELSON

(Second of a series of seven articles.)

MONTEAGLE, Tenn., Dec. 15—Myles Horton, director of Highlander Folk School, claims a "personal grudge" prompted a former Communist to lie about alleged communistic activity at the school.

This is one of many explanations that Horton offers for the many reports linking the interracial school to communism since Highlander's establishment 25 years ago. Horton flatly denies the school has ever had anything to do with communism.

The sworn testimony that the school was linked to the Communist conspiracy came from Paul Crouch, former Tennessee organizer for the Communist party, at a 1953 hearing of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee in New Orleans. Although it is not the only testimony of a Highlander-Communist link, it certainly is some of the most pointed.

Horton was ousted from this same hearing because he refused to answer a question. He tried to read a prepared statement instead. But Sen. James Eastland (D-Miss), subcommittee chairman, ordered him removed from the hearing room.

Sen. Eastland told The Atlanta Constitution that the Department of Justice found that Crouch's testimony "fitted in" with the department's investigations. "The department's investigation has backed up his testimony," Eastland declared.

Crouch has died since the hearing.

Horton claims that Crouch's testimony about alleged Communist activities was so "weak and full of holes" that the Department of Justice dropped several cases it had based on his testimony.

Thomas K. Hall, criminal section chief of the internal security division, Department of Justice, told The Atlanta Constitution:

"No criminal cases have been dropped by this division for that reason."

On the contrary, Crouch's testimony was considered important in Communist conspiracy case convictions under the Smith Act in St. Louis, Honolulu Seattle and Philadelphia, according to Hall.

The Philadelphia case was reversed by the Supreme Court in light of the Yates decision in a conspiracy case in California. Appeals in the other three cases are pending.

(In the Yates decision, rendered June 17, 1957, the court held that the Smith Act was aimed at the advocacy and teaching of concrete actions for the forcible overthrow of the government and not of principles divorced from action. In failing to point out this difference, the trial judge's charge to the jury was defective, the court ruled.)

"Crouch was a stupid man," Horton said, "and he told lies about Highlander because of something that happened back about 1935.

"A Daily Worker reporter interviewed me when Crouch first came to Tennessee to try to organize TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) workers. The reporter asked me about Crouch, what I thought about him.

HORTON'S EXPLANATION

"I told him that I didn't want to be put in the position of advising the Communist Party about what to do, but I said, 'You ought to have an organizer who is at least half as intelligent as the people he's trying to organize.'"

Horton claims that this remark instilled in Crouch a hatred that caused him to smear Highlander at the hearing.

At any rate, Crouch testified that Highlander was "a school . . . ostensible as an independent labor school, but actually working in close cooperation with the Communist Party."

Crouch testified that James A. Dombrowski was an instructor at Highlander from about 1937 until some time in the '40s. Dombrowski, a graduate of Atlanta's Emory University, is executive director of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, which was the central subject of the subcommittee hearing.

TELLS OF MEETING

Asked if Dombrowski accepted Communist Party discipline, Crouch testified:

"Yes, sir; to the extent that all instructions that were given him by the subcommittee by the district bureau of Tennessee (of the Communist Party) were carried out by Dr. Dombrowski regarding the administration of the Highlander Folk School.

Crouch testified that he met at Highlander with Horton, Dombrowski and Ed McRea, the Nashville organizer of the Communist Party and later Crouch's successor as Tennessee organizer. Also present for part of the meeting, Crouch testified, was Franz Daniel, trade union organizer and a Socialist.

Crouch testified that he stated at the meeting that the Communist Party "was anxious to get the maximum results from the Highlander Folk School without endangering Mr. Horton or anyone. . . ."

DANGER TO FUNDS

"The results to which I referred," Crouch explained, "were if it were to become public knowledge that the Highlander Folk School was cooperating too closely with the Communist Party and carrying on too much open Communist propaganda that it would endanger its funds and its support and the Communist Party recognized that this would be harmful to the school and the party."

Crouch said the purpose of the meeting was "to work out a plan by which the Daily Worker would be purchased by the school."

He testified the Communist newspaper "would be made accessible to the students, that everywhere possible the instructors should refer to the Daily Worker, to news that had come in it, to encourage the students to read it, and it was agreed that the Communist Party should have a student, a leader, sent there as a student whose job it would be to look around for prospective recruits and Mildred White, new in Washington, D.C., was selected to attend the Highlander Folk School for the purpose of recruiting for the Communist Party and carrying the Communist Party line among the student body there."

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#### QUOTES HORTON

"You said it was agreed?" Crouch was asked. "Who agreed?"

Crouch replied: "Mr. Horton and Mr. Dombrowski."

Crouch testified that at the same meeting he asked Horton about joining the Communist Party. He quoted Horton, "as near as I can recall his words," as replying:

"I'm doing you just as much good now as I would if I were a member of the Communist Party. I am often asked if I am a Communist Party member and I always say no. I feel much safer in having no fear that evidence might be uncovered to link me with the Communist Party, and therefore I prefer not to become a member of the Communist Party."

#### DOUGLASVILLE'S WEST

Asked if Don West, a Georgian now living near Douglasville, had anything to do with Highlander, Crouch testified:

"He previously had. Rev. Don West and Myles Horton were the original founders of the Highlander Folk School but the Rev. Don West had earlier left . . . to become, first, Socialist state secretary for Georgia; then, my assistant in North Carolina in the Communist Party as district trade union director of the Communist Party; then, as Kentucky state organizer for the Communist Party; and now I understand is a writer for Mr. Aubrey Williams' paper."

Williams, who publishes the Southern Farm and Home magazine in Montgomery, Ala., is a member of Highlander's executive council. He has been affiliated with many organizations labeled "subversive" by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.)

#### DAILY WORKER

Crouch testified that it was agreed at the meeting that the Daily Worker would be carried where all the students would be able to see it, "and I was later informed by Mildred White that this was done and that there was considerable reading of the Daily Worker."

When Horton took the stand at the hearing, Sen. Eastland asked him if Mildred White had attended Highlander.

"If she did it was many years ago and I have no list of students but if she attended she did not attend as a Communist party member," Horton replied.

"We accept no students from the Communist party and never have," Horton testified.

He balked when asked if Dombrowski was affiliated with Highlander.

"Couldn't I give my reasons why I don't want to answer?" Horton inquired.

#### EASTLAND OBJECTS

Eastland replied that he did not want "reasons," only an answer, and when Horton persisted and tried to read a statement, Eastland declared, "We are not going to have any self-serving declarations."

On Eastland's orders, a federal Marshal removed Horton from the hearing room.

Horton says the reason he refused to answer questions concerning Dombrowski was that, "I'm not going to be an informer."

In the 5½-page prepared statement that Horton never got to read to the subcommittee, he blasted the committees of Sen. McCarthy and Rep. Velde, accusing them of using undemocratic methods "under the guise of fighting communism."

The statement also criticized Eastland's sub-committee.

#### SCHOOL INTEGRATION

Integration of the public schools, said Horton in his statement, would "spectacularly refresh the Democratic thesis everywhere." And he added, "I suppose that in the eyes of some of the members of this committee, opposition to segregation is 'subversive.'"

Another witness at the hearing, John Butler, identified as a former "functionary of the Communist Party in Alabama, testified he attended a meeting of Communist Party leaders in July of 1942 in the Birmingham hotel room of James Dombrowski

Butler testified that Dombrowski was introduced to him as a Communist Party member. Butler swore the introduction was by Alton Lawrence, who in November, 1956, was indicted on a charge of conspiring to file a false non-Communist affidavit with the National Labor Relations Board. As a labor union official, Lawrence was required to file a non-Communist affidavit with NLRB.

Lawrence also was a member of the Highlander faculty during the school's early days.

#### N.C. MEETING

On Aug. 13, 1938, John P. Frey, president of Metal Trades Department of the AFL, testified before the Dies Committee on Un-American Activities, and named Alton Lawrence and Myles Horton as persons who "attended a secret convention in North Carolina, at which time plans were made for spreading the revolutionary theories throughout the South."

"In connection with this," Frey testified, "I might mention that the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tenn., was mixed up in this secret convention, in which these CIO organizers took a very prominent part."

In Tuesday's Atlanta Constitution: What Highlanders neighbors think of the school.

# Group Defends Folk School

Compiled From Press Dispatches

MONTEAGLE, Tenn., Dec. 24 —A statement purportedly signed by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and others, describing attacks on the controversial Highlander Folk School as a "Communist-inspired and led" institution, has been made public by School Director Myles Horton.

The statement, dated last Friday, bore the typewritten signatures of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt; Lloyd K. Garrison, former dean of the University of Wisconsin Law School; Msgr. John O'Grady, national Conference of Catholic Charities, and Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, Protestant theologian.

## Commission Assailed

The statement attacked a publication by the Georgia Commission of Education which alleged the school during last Labor Day weekend was host to "the leaders of every major race incident in the South . . ."

Gov. Marvin Griffin of Georgia was charged with "irresponsible demagoguery" in a statement by Dr. Niebuhr at Union Theological Seminary.

Griffin's Commission on Education was severely criticized for adopting the "dangerous technique" of charging those who attended a seminar on "The South Thinking Ahead" at the Highlander Folk School were Communist inspired and led.

## Formed in 1933

The governor defended the commission's attack on the school and its criticism on the interracial meeting, saying "the pictures of activities and the documentation of those who participated in the folk school speak for themselves."

The statement said, ". . . We deem it morally indefensible for any man or group to inflict upon such institutions as Highlander and upon such individuals as the respected leaders, both white and Negro, who attended the Labor Day seminar, the damage to reputation and position which may result from wide distribution of this slanderous material."

The statement referred to a four-page publication now being distributed bearing the imprint of the Georgia Commission on Education.

The statement said the commission was created by the Georgia Legislation in 1953 for the purpose of uncovering " . . . master plan, Soviet inspired, behind the racial incidents so widespread today."

The statement quoted the commission as saying, "During Labor Day weekend, 1957, there assembled at Highlander the leaders of every major race incident in the South . . ."

## Attendance Increased

The statement said, "The seminar attacked by Gov. Griffin was one of a series of workshops, each from one to six weeks in duration, held by Highlander since 1953 to develop plans and leaders for an orderly peaceful transition from segregated to integrated schools."

The statement said, "That this kind of irresponsible demagoguery is obviously designed to intensify the difficulties confronting decent Southerners who might otherwise give leadership in the adjustment necessary for the desegregation which is inevitable."

Horton said, "although a demagogue like Gov. Griffin may not comprehend the practice of brotherhood as a matter of principle, even he should be able to understand the tremendous damage segregation is doing to our prestige abroad and the manner in which the Communists are forging anti-American propaganda weapons out of the South's undemocratic practices."

Horton said that attendance at Highlander workshops has increased as a result of Griffin's attack.

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# Highlander Friends Rap Critics of Racial Plans

MONTEAGLE, Tenn. (AP) — Director Myles Horton of the Highlander Folk School has made public a statement strongly criticizing attacks on the institution as a "Communist-inspired and led" school. The statement, dated last Friday, bore the type-written signatures of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Lloyd G. Garrison, former dean of the University of Wisconsin Law School; McGr. John O'Grady, National Conference of Catholic Charities, and Dr. Reinhold Neibuhr, Protestant theologian.

The statement attacked a publication by the Georgia Commission of Education in which it was alleged the school during last Labor Day weekend was host to "the leaders of every major race incident in the South . . ."

Georgia Gov. Marvin Griffin is chairman of the 23-member commission, which was formed by the 1953 Legislature to seek means of preserving segregation.

The seminar attacked by Gov. Griffin was one of a series of workshops, each from one to six weeks in duration, held by Highlander since 1953 to develop plans and leaders for an orderly, peaceful transition from segregated to integrated schools," the three-page statement said.

## STRIPE PLOT SEEN

T. V. Williams Jr., executive secretary of the Georgia commission, said last October a state undercover agent had "infiltrated" the Labor Day meeting. Williams charged that the meeting was set up to "discuss methods and tactics of precipitating racial strife and tension."

The commission was told that a number of persons accused by Georgia Atty. Gen. Eugene Cook of having Communist sympathies and affiliations had attended the seminar. It charged that the seminar constituted a "Communist training school."

Horton was quoted in the statement as saying, "Highlander takes pride and assumes full responsibility for the discussion leaders. Highlander did not and does not welcome enrollment of anyone with a totalitarian philosophy whether from the extreme right or extreme left. In these troubled times, nothing but more trouble can come from the White Citizens Councils and the Communist Party's infiltration into groups earnestly seeking a democratic solution to our problem. Both are morally bankrupt and have nothing to offer. . . ."

The statement said, "We deem it morally indefensible for any men or group to inflict upon such institutions as Highlander and upon any such individuals, both white and Negro, who attended the Labor Day seminar, the damage to reputation and position which may result from the wide distribution of this slanderous material. . . ."

## U.S. 'PRESTIGE'

"Although a demagogue like Governor Griffin may not comprehend the practice of brotherhood as a matter of principle, even he should be able to understand the tremendous damage segregation is doing to our prestige abroad and the manner in which the Communists are forging anti-American material out of the South's undemocratic practices."

Among those attending the Labor Day seminar were the Rev. Martin Luther King, leader of the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott; Dr. Alonzo Moron, president of Hampton Institute; Charles Gomillion, dean of students at Tuskegee, Ala., Institute, and Prof. John Hope II of Fisk University.

Williams said in his report there were also at the seminar "representative leaders of the Tuskegee boycott, the Tallahassee, Fla., bus incident; the South Carolina-NAACP school teachers incident, the Koinonia interracial farm, Americus, Ga., and the Clinton, Tenn., school incident, among others."

Highlander was founded 25 years ago with the announced goal of "creating leadership for democracy." Horton, native of Savannah, Tenn., and graduate of Cumberland University, has been its director since its founding.

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# 3 Atlantians on the Board Of Race Integration Hub

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Three Atlantians are listed on Highlander Folk School's 26-member executive council. They are Dean B. R. Brazeal of Morehouse College; Mrs. Harry Gershon, 1590 Harvard Rd., NE, and Mrs. Grace Hamilton of the Atlanta Urban League.

Also named as council members on Highlander's current list are:

Mrs. Helen Bass, Benedict College, Columbia, S.C.; Mrs. Sarah Patton Boyle, Charlottesville, Va.; Mrs. Septima Clark of Highlander Folk School; Dean Charles Cornillion of Tuskegee Institute, Ala.; G. R. Hathaway, secretary, treasurer of UPWA-CIO, Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. John Etta Hayes of Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. John Hope II, Fisk University, Nashville; Myles Horton of Highlander Folk School; Esau Jenkins, Charleston, S.C.; Dr. Lewis Jones, Rural Life Council,

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.; May Justus, Tracy City, Tenn.; Stewart Meacham, New York, N.Y.; Mrs. Rosa Parks, Hampton, Va.; Prof. J. B. Pierce, Alabama State College, Montgomery, Ala.; Rev. Eugene Smathers, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Big Lick, Tenn.; Dr. P. A. Stephens, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Jordan Stokes III, attorney, Nashville; Lucille Thornburgh, associate editor of East Tennessee Labor News, Knoxville; Mrs. Arnetta Wallace, Chicago, Ill.; Tom White, secretary of Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Lexington, Tenn.; Aubrey Williams, publisher of Southern Farm and Home, Montgomery, Ala.; Charles Wilson, Tennessee representative of International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, Columbia, Tenn., and Mrs. George Wolfe, Takoma Park, Md.

Council  
Highlander Folk School  
Montreal  
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Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
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# 'Perfuming' Highlander School

The notorious Highlander Folk School atop the Cumberland Mountains at Monteagle, Tenn., headed by a man who has a record of activity in a Communist front organization, has added to its unfavorable reputation in recent months by its advocacy of forced integration upon the South and its use as a meeting ground for integrationist figures who have been leaders in the scattered racial disturbances that have occurred.

As a result of the kind of activity it has promoted and the individuals it has encouraged, Highlander has gotten itself charged by the Georgia Education Commission with having held on Labor Day of this year a "Communist training school."

The activities of Highlander Folk School have been widely publicized by newspaper accounts of the meeting and by a special publication of the Georgia Education Association.

Apparently stung sharply by the attention he has gotten, Myles Horton, director of the school and who, incidentally, once had to be forcefully ejected from a hearing of the Senate Internal

Security Subcommittee because of his misconduct, has released a statement "strongly condemning" attacks on Highlander Folk School as a "Communist training school."

The statement is issued over signatures which will add no luster to the school's reputation. They include those of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, Msgr. John O'Grady of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, and Lloyd R. Garrison, former dean of the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Mrs. Roosevelt, it will be remembered, gave money to the left-wing Highlander School.

Reinhold Niebuhr happens to be on the list of Highlander's original sponsors.

It would appear Mrs. Roosevelt and Dr. Niebuhr might be interested in perfuming the school to protect themselves from the adverse inference upon them for their connections with it.

But instead of camouflaging the disreputable nature of Highlander Folk School, the signers of the statement have simply reflected upon themselves.

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 Mr. Donald  
 Editor

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- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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With Sunday Times	\$.50	2.20	6.60	13.00	26.00	

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1958

## Mrs. Roosevelt and Highlander

The Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tenn., has earned its bad reputation over a long period of years as a result of its leftwing programs, the Communist-front taint of its leadership and the disgraceful conduct of school leaders when called upon by congressional committees to answer justified questions about its operations.

More recently, attention has been centered on Highlander Folk School because of its emphasis on forcing racial integration and the accompanying deterioration of harmony and disruption of good will upon the South. It is a gathering place for leaders in agitation of racial issues. When criticism arises, the school has always been able to count upon statements of defense from

a clique of leftwing "do-gooders" whose prominent positions in various fields have been tarnished by their misuse of them in this and similar respects.

It is not at all surprising, but is noteworthy, that one of Highlander's integration workshops this year will be addressed by none other than Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. Mrs. Roosevelt's name long has been linked with the school, she having been one of its early contributors and sponsors.

Mrs. Roosevelt's participation in the Highlander Folk School program will not raise either its reputation or hers. But considering both the school's record and Mrs. Roosevelt's record, their new association will probably damage neither, since both already have sunk so low.

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Miss Gandy	_____

# CHATTANOOGA NEWS-FREE PRESS

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With Sunday Times	\$ .50	2.20	6.50	13.00	26.00		

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1958

## No Place for a UT Professor

Announcement that Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt would participate in a racial integration conference at the notorious Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tenn., came as no surprise despite the Communist-front taint of the school. But Tennesseans should be not only surprised but indignant to note that a professor of the University of Tennessee School of Social Work also is participating in the Highlander integration propaganda.

"A Calendar of Events" distributed by Highlander Folk School shows that on March 22-23 a planning session for a "Workshop on Citizenship and Inte-

gration" was set. The first name on the list of scheduled participants is "Professor Francis Manis, University of Tennessee School of Social Work." Prof. Manis' name appears again on the Highlander program as a participant in the integration conference scheduled for May 2-3-4.

The people of Tennessee, who have great pride in the University of Tennessee and whose tax money supports the functions of that institution should be concerned to find its good name associated with a pro-integration conference anywhere and especially at the disreputable Highlander Folk School.

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# Highlander School- Proposal Revised

## New Measure Provides Funds For Investigation

From The Commercial Appeal  
Nashville Bureau

NASHVILLE, Feb. 2.—Representative Harry Lee Senter of Bristol said Monday he expects a revised resolution calling for an investigation of the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle to be introduced in the Legislature Tuesday.

Such a resolution was adopted in both Senate and House last week but was recalled by Senator Barton Dement so the state Attorney General could study it and suggest amendments.

Mr. Senter said the revised resolution will provide that the speaker of each house will choose members of the investigative committee and that an appropriation of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 be granted to finance the inquiry.

In other action relative to Highlander, the controversial school's director, Myles Horton, has mailed a letter to the resolution's sponsors re-affirming his invitation to the lawmakers to visit and investigate the institution.

The letter—a copy of which was sent to Gov. Buford Ellington—said Highlander's reputation has been damaged by publicity given the resolution and called for "A decisive and unequivocal report; one that either substantiates the charges made by the Attorney General of Arkansas that Highlander is subversive or one that clears the school and Tennessee."

~~Highlander~~

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# Sewanee Educators Defend Highlander

## Communism Charge Called Unfair; House Approves Probe Resolution

Highlander Folk school is dedicated to democracy and the charge that it nourishes communism is unjustified and unfair, 15 educators said in a letter to Gov. Buford Ellington yesterday.

Fourteen of the group are professors—one retired—at the University of the South, Sewanee. The 15th is a member of the

faculty of St. Andrews school for boys, an Episcopal high school, near Monteagle.

Governor Ellington said the letter had been received but withheld comment at this time. His reaction came as a resolution calling for an investigation of the school was adopted by the house of representatives yesterday by a vote of 74 to 4. It was sent to the senate where action may come today. That would require suspension of the rules.

### Only 2 Fight Probe

The resolution to probe the school, located in Grundy county, provides for \$5,000 to pay two attorneys to conduct the investigation. It also provides that the speakers, instead of the governor, shall appoint members of the investigating committee. Only floor opposition came from Rep. G. L. Aderhold of Etowah and Rep. Farless G. Bailey Jr. of Nashville.

"We're wasting \$5,000," said Aderhold. "This thing will be worthless. Let the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation investigate the school."

Bailey said the school has been investigated three times "and it

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Nashville, Tenn.  
2-5-59 p. 5

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seems to me that all we're doing is spending \$5,000 to prove we're patriotic Americans."

Rep. Harry Lee Senter of Bristol, author of the resolution, declared:

"How long are we going to let the left-wingers, the Communists, the do-gooders, and the one-woriders take over?" The director of the school has offered to open the doors of his dreamland to us.

"He has challenged us to put up or shut up. I'm not withdrawing from anything, but we will investigate his school in our own good time and at our convenience. Our central purpose is to root out that which is evil."

Voting against the resolution were Aderhold, Bailey, Rep. Gene McIlwain of Hartsville and Rep. Robert C. Taylor of Nashville.

"We have found the spirit of Highlander to be wholeheartedly dedicated to the free institutions of democracy," the educators' letter to Ellington said, "and we believe that Myles Horton, founder of the school, and his director of education are devoted to American ideals."

The letter to Ellington was signed by these teachers at University of the South:

Dr. C. F. Allison, professor of theology; Dr. Scott Bates, assist-

ant professor of French; Dr. Stratton Buck, professor of modern languages; Dr. Ben F. Cameron Jr., director of admissions; the Rev. Wilford O. Cross, professor of theology; Dr. Robert A. Degen, associate professor of economics; Marvin E. Goodstein, associate professor of economics.

Dr. James M. Grimes, head of the history department; Dr. William B. Guenther, assistant professor of the department of chemistry; D. Charles Harrison, retired dean and head of the English department; Eugene M. Kayden, retired professor of economics, formerly head of that department; Dr. Malcolm Owen, head of the department of biology; David E. Underdown, professor in department of history and the Rev. Vesper O. Ward, professor in the school of theology.

The Rev. Donald E. Chapman, is the member of the St. Andrews school faculty who signed the letter.

#### Text of Letter to Governor

The letter to Ellington follows: "Over a period of years we residents of Sewanee have on numerous occasions visited the Highlander Folk school. Our visits have included seminars as well as addresses and informal chats. As a result we believe that we know the character of the school and the people who run it. We should like to share our impressions and opinions with you, in view of the impending legislative investigation of Highlander.

"The heart of the proposed investigation appears to be an allegation by some that Highlander engages in 'subversive activities,' specifically that it propagates the Communist ideology and puts that ideology into practical application in Tennessee and other states. It is our conviction that this charge is unjustified and unfair. On the contrary, we have found the spirit of Highlander to be wholeheartedly dedicated to the free institutions of democracy, and we believe that Myles Horton and his director of education are devoted to American ideals. The atmosphere of the school is relaxed and open with complete freedom of opinion and with no 'party line' either overt or subtle.

"We trust that no official or official body of the state of Tennessee would countenance the naive and pernicious notion that persons who do not accept racial segregation as an ideal are therefore Communists. In the world struggle for the minds of men in many nations around the world communism is using racial segregation in the United States as a powerful weapon against us. What a tragic irony if our own efforts to combat communism should suppress freedom and democracy at home while simultaneously strengthening communism abroad! That is where the real struggle is going on.

"We realize that some who have no first hand acquaintance with Highlander may question what we have said about it. This is especially likely during this time of uncertainty in world affairs when social pressure toward conformity is great. It adds to our belief that it is our responsibility to share our observations with others in this matter.

"As the chief executive of Tennessee you must surely welcome calm statements from all responsible citizens. Since this is a public matter we feel free to address you with an open letter."

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Parsons
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Trotter
- Mr. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Holloman
- Miss Gandy

# Red Charges Piled Up In Old Highlander Inquiry

But Star Witness Is Dead Now And No Action Trailed Senate Probe

By MILTON BRITTEN, The Press-Scimitar Bureau

WASHINGTON.—If dead men could talk, a five-man investigating committee of the Tennessee Legislature would probably insist on looking up one Paul Crouch, a self-confessed, Moscow-trained former Communist.

The committee is envisaged by a legislative resolution calling for a probe of reports that the inter-racial Highlander Folk School near Monteagle, Tenn., is "subversive." (The House passed the resolution yesterday by a 74-7 vote.)

In March of 1954 Crouch was a star witness during three-day Senate Internal Security Subcommittee hearings on the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., in which testimony about the Highlander Folk School and its director, Myles Horton, figured prominently.

Research director for the Senate subcommittee, Ben Mandel, says Crouch died of natural causes a couple years ago. At the 1954 hearings he told of a 1940 meeting at Highlander while he, Crouch, was still a party member. He said it was agreed to plant a Communist

organizer at the school.

Crouch said he had been a party member 17 years before he became disillusioned in 1942, quit, and five years later told all to the FBI.

He said he had been a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, a member of the negro trade union and agricultural commissions of the party and had been Tennessee district organizer for the party, with headquarters in Knoxville.

Crouch, a white man, said he had been trained in Moscow in Communist techniques of espionage, sabotage, propaganda. At the time of his testimony he said he was employed by the U. S. Immigration Service in Honolulu.

Crouch said those present at the 1940 meeting at Highlander included besides Horton and himself Dr. James A. Dombrowski of New Orleans, director of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, and "Ed McCrea, Nashville organizer of the Communist Party, a member of the bureau, and later my successor as Tennessee organizer . . ."

### Southern Fund

The Southern Conference Educational Fund was identified as off-shoot of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, which Crouch said got its original financing from the Communist Party and which was cited during the '40s by the House Un-American Activities Committee as a "Communist front." Dombrowski said at the hearings he wasn't a Communist, never had been and had never been under Communist discipline. He said he had taught at Highlander about 1936.

Asked about the 1940 meeting at Highlander, Crouch told the committee: "At this occasion I stated the Communist Party was anxious to get the maximum results from the Highlander Folk School without endangering Mr. Horton or anyone

"The purpose of the conference was to work out a plan by which the Daily Worker would be purchased by the school, be made accessible to students, and everywhere possible instructors should refer to the Daily Worker, said Crouch.

"And it was agreed that the Communist Party should have a leader, sent there as a student, whose job it would be to look around for prospective recruits, and Mildred White was selected . . ."

Crouch said Horton and Dombrowski agreed to this. He said he also asked Horton to become "a formal member of the Communist Party."

### Horton's Side

Horton later told the subcommittee he didn't know if "Mildred White" ever attended Highlander or not. "If she did," he added, "she was sent by a union, not by the Communist Party. We accept no students from the Communist Party and never have."

Horton later issued a press statement saying he wasn't and never had been a Communist.

Mandel said today he doesn't know the whereabouts now of "Mildred White." The subcommittee after its hearings recommended the attorney general present the Southern Conference Educational Fund case to the Subversive Activities Control Board for hearing.

SACB said today the Justice Department never did this. The attorney general's list of subversive organizations doesn't include the Southern Conference Educational Fund. Nor does it include Highlander Folk School.

### Sewanee Profs Say 'Unfair'

By United Press International

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Fourteen professors at University of the South at Sewanee, in a letter to Gov. Buford Ellington, were reported to have said charges against controversial Highlander Folk School are unfair. Ellington confirmed the letter had been received but did not comment on it.

*[Large blacked-out redacted area with handwritten scribbles]*

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*Monteagle, Tenn*

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**Group Named  
For Inquiry  
Into School**

From The Commercial Appeal  
Nashville Bureau

NASHVILLE, Feb. 12. — A legislative investigating committee was appointed Thursday shortly after the Governor signed a resolution calling for an inquiry into the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle.

Members of the committee are Senators Lawrence Hughes of Arlington and Barton Dement of Memphis and Representatives J. Alan Hanover of Memphis, Harry Lee Senter of Chattanooga and Carter Patten of Chattanooga.

Mr. Hanover said committee members will meet Monday at 10 p.m.

The resolution has been controversial. It points to alleged subversive activities at High-

lander and gives the committee full authority to subpoena witnesses and records.

Committee members are instructed by the resolution to report their findings to this session of the Legislature.

Myles Horton, director of the East Tennessee Institution, has denied the school is a "finishing school for communism" and declares he welcomes the investigation.

"Industry" will be the theme of the program.

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# Dement To Head Highlander Unit

## Legislative Group To Hire Attorney For Inquiry

### FIRST SESSION IS HELD

From The Commercial Appeal  
Nashville Bureau

NASHVILLE, Feb. 16.—Senator Barton Dement was named chairman Monday of a legislative committee that will investigate operations of the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle.

The Murfreesboro attorney pledged to perform his duties "fairly and fearlessly" and said the five-man committee will keep itself "in the bounds of the law and the resolution."

#### Opinion On Duration

Senator Dement, at the first meeting of the committee, produced an opinion of state Solicitor General Allison Humphreys that the investigative group must complete its inquiry during the current legislative session.

This is necessary, Mr. Humphreys said, because the functions of a committee created by resolution cannot extend beyond adjournment of the General Assembly.

Representative Harry Lee, senator of Bristol, a committee member and one of the sponsors of the resolution, expressed some concern over the official opinion.

The resolution, he commented, calls for the committee to make an interim report to the Legislature with the thought in mind that the investigation may need to be continued after the General Assembly adjourns in March.

Another committee member, Representative J. Alan Hanson of Memphis, said that if a further investigation will be necessary after adjournment, the Legislature could enact a law to permit it.

The Highlander has been labeled by some legislators as the scene of subversive activities and has even been called a

finishing school for communism. Myles Horton, director of Highlander, has vigorously denied this and says he welcomes the investigation.

#### Patten Is Secretary

Representative Cartter Patten of Chattanooga was appointed secretary of the committee. The other member is Senator Law-

rence Hughes of Arlington.

The committee went into executive session shortly after Mr. Patten's election. Members said afterward they discussed securing the services of an attorney as special counsel to the committee.

Senator Dement said they are

considering an East Tennessee lawyer but have not talked with him about accepting the position. Under provisions of the resolution, the committee may spend up to \$5,000 for any expenses it incurs.

Members said they have not yet decided whether to conduct

the end of investigation here or whether they will visit the school. They have full power to subpoena witnesses and records.

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# School Charter Center of Fire

By GARRY FULLERTON  
Staff Correspondent

TRACY CITY, Tenn.—The joint legislative committee investigating Highlander Folk school showed by its questions at a public hearing here yesterday it wants to revoke the school's charter.

Testimony during the day-long session centered around the

school's labor organizing activities in the early 1930s and its classes on integration problems during recent years.

However, one of the most significant disclosures came when Mrs. Violet Crutchfield, Grundy county registrar of deeds, testified that the school's charter has not been registered in Grundy county as required by law.

### Other Testimony

Through the testimony of some 16 witnesses, the committee also attempted to show that:

- The school is not a bona fide educational institution.
- It has not fulfilled the purposes for which its charter was issued.
- Part of its tax free property was deeded two years ago to Myles Horton, one of the school's founders and its director.

Horton told a reporter in an interview later the property was transferred to him in lieu of back wages which the school owed him.

He said he has been paying taxes on the property Aug. 7, 1957, date of the transfer. He said the property

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FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF  
HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
TENN

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includes the house in which he lives and a small piece of land surrounding it.

Revocation of the school's charter would mean the institution would have to pay state and county taxes on all its property. It is now tax exempt.

#### School Defended

Miss May Justus, a writer of children's books and Sunday school lessons, defended the school in almost an hour and a half of testimony yesterday afternoon. Miss Justus, who is secretary-treasurer of the Highlander board of directors, said the school has contributed a great deal to the community in which it is located.

The testimony of Miss Justus, followed the long parade of witnesses from Grundy county who told the committee the people of the county don't like the Mont-eagle institution and feel it has contributed nothing to the welfare of the county.

Before the hearing opened yesterday morning, members of the committee visited Highlander Folk school, talked briefly with Horton and casually thumbed through books in the library.

"There's some hot stuff here," said Rep. Harry Lee Senter of Bristol.

"Aw, it's nothing you can't find in almost any library," said Sen. Barton Dement of Murfreesboro, committee chairman.

#### Tells of Strike

First to be called was Emmett Thomas, 59, an employe of the Grundy county highway department. He testified that Horton helped organize the strike of WPA workers in the county in the early 30s. He said it was a sit-down strike.

Asked if Horton had promised anything to the workers, he said, "He told us we'd get better conditions and better pay." He added that the strike had resulted in better conditions.

"Our big complaint was that the job superintendent was a slave driver," he said. "We didn't like him and we got shed of him and got a little raise in wages too."

Thomas and Harry Dyer, another witness, also said they had seen colored and white children swimming together in the pond at Highlander.

The next witness, Carl Geary, testified that people from High-

lander occasionally visited his store which he ran for seven years near the school. He said he had formed the habit of taking down the numbers of license plates of cars going into the school but lost all of that information when his store burned several years ago.

Miss Justus testified that in its early years Highlander had organized a canning co-operative to enable families of the community to have additional food during the depression. A sewing co-operative, she said, helped women in the community earn a little extra money by making quilts, square dance skirts and pin cushions. She said the school also ran a nursery school, bookmobile, a recreation program for teen-agers and gave free music lessons to children in the community.

She was cross examined at great length by Representatives Alan Hanover of Memphis and Harry Lee Senter of Bristol about a deed she helped execute in 1957, transferring part of the school property to Horton.

Senter asked Miss Justus if she had not, in fact, violated her responsibility as a trustee of the institution by giving away its property to an individual. She replied that the house and the land are still being used for activities of the Folk school and that she was confident they would continue to be so used in the future.

"But you have no assurance of that, do you?" Senter asked. "You have no more assurance of that than I do."

J. H. McCartt, committee council, suggested that Miss Justus' statement was actually written by Horton or was, at least, "cleared" with him before being issued. She denied this indignantly. He also had Miss Justus identify photographs taken at the school showing Negroes and whites square dancing together. Then he asked her:

"Do you approve of colored and whites dancing together?"

"I see nothing immoral about

it," she said. "It's a square dance. I can look at television any time and see worse than that."

#### Asks Law Knowledge

"Don't you know its against the law for whites and coloreds to marry in Tennessee?" McCartt asked.

"Yes sir," she replied. "But I didn't know that a square dance was part of a marriage ceremony."

McCartt then read the purposes of the school as outlined in its charter and asked Miss Justus if she thought they were being lived up to. She replied she did.

"It says here one of your purposes is to train rural and in-

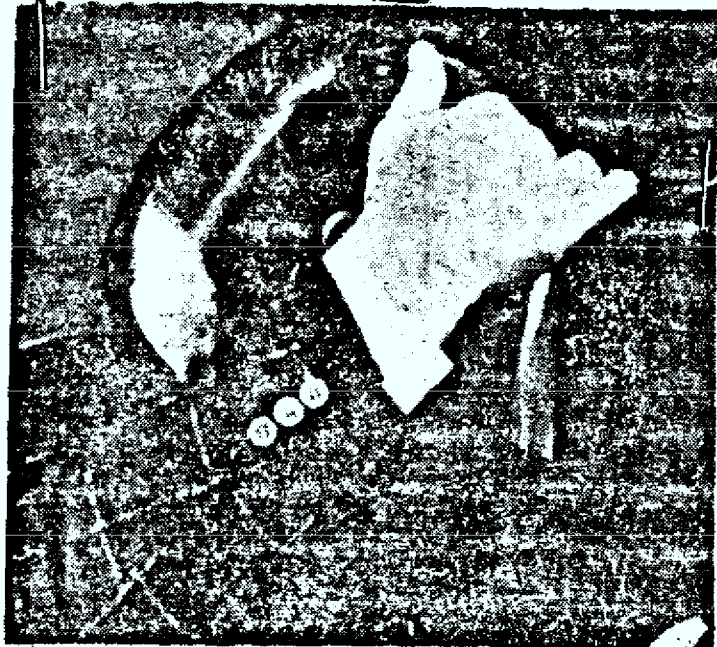
dustrial leaders." McCartt said. "Have you issued any diplomas to rural and industrial leaders that you know of?"

"I didn't know diplomas were required for rural and industrial leaders," Miss Justus replied.

With few exceptions, yesterday's testimony was confined to events which occurred prior to World War II. Nearly all the witnesses said they had had no contact with the school in recent years.

#### Sewanee Professors Testify

Two professors of the University of the South, Sewanee, testified in the school's favor yesterday. They were David B. Underdown, professor of history, and



TRACY CITY, Tenn.—Sen. Barton Dement, left, and J. H. McCartt, chairman and counsel of the legislative committee investigating Highlander Folk school, get their heads together on a point of strategy.

PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH,  
SEWANEE, TENN

Willford D. Cross, professor of Christian ethics. Several other Sewanee professors submitted statements to the committee with the understanding they would be called to testify under oath later, if the committee requires it.

Among them were Eugene M. Kayden, retired professor of economics at Sewanee who is a trustee of the Highlander Folk school. In his statement he said that "as a professional economist, as a citizen, I have benefitted from meeting men of both races from various walks of life, including college teachers, college deans and presidents of the Negro race.

"I have benefitted from meeting educators and government officials from countries of Western Europe, Asia, and Africa directed to Highlander by the U.S. Department of State," he said.

"I can testify to their seriousness, their good will, their sense of fair play and toleration, good humor, their readiness and ability to take a broad view of subjects, including the problem of school integration."

#### Attends Workshops

Kayden said he had attended nearly 30 workshops at Highlander and it is in these groups that "men learn the difficult art of calm deliberation in an atmosphere favorable to conference work, understanding, which leads to friendship and reconciliation."

Highlander has "no special creed, no program of wholesale reform" and "no political affiliation, right or left," he said. "It is simply a meeting place for adults of both races on such subjects, as education, citizenship, health, social services, community welfare" and the school's procedures are "democratic and constitutional."

Other Sewanee professors who submitted statements were Robert A. Degen, H. Malcolm Owen, Stratton Buck and Scott Bates.

Other witnesses heard yesterday were L. C. Goodman of Pelham, Tenn., a public accountant; Robert

Alfred Duncan of Summerfield, a construction foreman; Clarence E. Klugore, a postmaster at Mont-eagle; Roy Lane of Summerfield, a former mine worker; Grundy County Sheriff Elston Clay; Rudolph Brown of Coalmont, an inspector for the state highway department; Henry Dyer of Summerfield, a laborer; Ford Cox, also a Summerfield laborer, and W. T. Barnes of Monteagle, a former lieutenant of the Washington, D.C., police force.

The session began at 10 a.m. in the auditorium of the Grundy County high school and continued until 5:30 p.m. with an hour's break for lunch. McCartt did most of the questioning but all the committee members.

About 100 persons were present during the morning session and about 200 for most of the afternoon session. The audience included a substantial number of students and faculty members from the University of the South as well as interested Grundy county residents and officials.

PROFESSORS AT UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH,  
SEWANEE, TENN

# Hearings Close On Folk School

Legislators Will Report On  
Highlander Findings

## DIRECTOR IS WITNESS

By RICHARD ALLIN  
Staff Writer

NASHVILLE, March 5.—Fate of the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle rests with a legislative investigating committee which ended its final hearing Thursday morning.

The committee, appointed to determine whether subversive activities are carried on at the school, will give its report and recommendation to the attorney general by Tuesday.

### Founder Only Witness

The only witness Thursday was Myles Horton, founder and director of the school who was closely questioned about the school's finances and its teaching activities.

Representative Alan Hanover of Memphis, who questioned Mr. Horton of monetary matters, expressed dissatisfaction with Mr. Horton's answers.

Mr. Horton said the bulk of operating funds were placed in the Bank of Sewanee, the nearest bank to the school, and that he "thought" there were only two other depositories for the school's funds, both California banks.

"Are those the only three banks where you have money?" Asked committee counsel J. H. McCart.

"I don't know right off," Mr. Horton said. "We write checks only on Sewanee bank. The others are savings and loans."

"How many other depositories do you have, Mr. Horton? Don't you know? Do you have so many depositories you don't know?"

### Asks Rate Of Interest

Unable to get an answer which satisfied the committee, Mr. McCart asked: "What rate of interest do you get in California?"

"We get about four and a half per cent," Mr. Horton replied.

"Don't you know exactly, Mr. Horton?"

"No, we put it in California because we got the highest rate of interest there." He said he had done so on the advice of his auditors.

Later Representative Hanover said: "He has taken in hundreds of thousands of dollars and the statements he has made here haven't told us anything."

Mr. Horton promised to provide the committee with a complete audit report of the school's finances. He said he did not have enough notification ahead of time to prepare the figures the committee wanted.

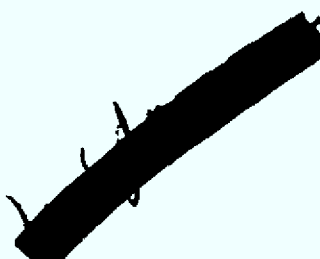
Mr. Hanover pursued questioning of the school's programs in relation to its finances. He noted large expenditures for travel expenses, but only about \$1,000 put into the school's library.

### Classes In 1959

"How many classes have you had at Highlander since Jan. 1, 1959?" Mr. Hanover asked.

"None. It's all been in the field—in the Sea Islands of South Carolina," Mr. Horton said.

The school is conducting literacy classes among Negroes in South Carolina so they can vote, the director said. The school has no extension programs elsewhere.

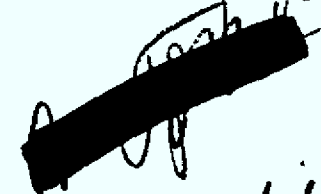


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THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

3-6-59



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## A Difference Which Should Be Noted

**D**IFFERENCES have arisen between the chairman and vice chairman of the legislative committee which investigated Highlander Folk school.

Rep. Harry Lee Senter, vice chairman and house author of the probe resolution, accuses Sen. Barton Dement, chairman and senate sponsor, of refusing to convene a meeting to draft a final report.

Senator Dement counters by saying "He's just trying to make statements to get in the limelight . . ."

We do not know whether Mr. Dement inadvertently has hit upon one of the chief motives behind the investigation, although suspecting as much. But one thing is clearly demonstrated by this little spat. Human beings do not always think alike.

And that, it is obvious, is the No. 1 reason the committee is demanding that the folk school surrender its state charter. Members of the legislature should remember the Dement-Senter difference of opinion, then, before they vote to burn the charter of an institution which does not think like this disputing pair.

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## Highlander School's Influence Felt Among Charleston County Negroes

Adult education and classes in citizenship are terms that have a solid sound. Proper training among Negroes of the Lowcountry sea islands could improve their lot and give them a broader role in community life.

The question, as we see it, is not whether these colored citizens, as well as any other citizens, should learn more about the world and the ideas of our times. The question is what they are being taught.

A local news article appearing in The News and Courier yesterday quoted Esau Jenkins of John's Island on classes that he has organized for Negroes in his vicinity.

"We only want to make them better citizens," Jenkins told a reporter. "The main thing is to teach them voting. We want them to understand how to vote intelligently."

The News and Courier heartily endorses the aim of making better citizens. If these citizens are to vote, they should know how to vote intelligently.

Our notion of intelligent voting is independent and thoughtful choice among issues and candidates. Intelligent voting does not include bloc voting. Anyone who teaches Negro voters to become bloc conscious at the ballot box does his race an injustice. Voters of any race should consider the welfare of the community and general progress.

Should a Negro bloc vote develop in the South, as happened in some parts of the North, white Southern politicians would seek it. The kind of politicians who court the Negro

vote will not provide the best kind of government for either race. They will set up racial antagonisms that will hurt both races. In the long run, however, it is the Negro who will suffer most from racial discord.

Our remarks today are general in nature. We are not directing them at Esau Jenkins and his John's Island training classes. We do not know exactly what is taught in those classes.

We do know where Esau Jenkins received his training. It was from the Highlander Folk School, an interracial institution at Monteagle, Tenn. A committee of the Tennessee legislature found considerable circumstantial evidence that Highlander Folk School has been "a meeting place for known communists or fellow travelers."

Whether or not communism is proved, the influence of Highlander Folk School on Lowcountry South Carolina has been established through Esau Jenkins and others.

On every hand, we hear warnings about the possibility that communists may take over the dark-skinned people of the world. Red China already is communist. Africa is in turmoil. So is the Middle East.

White civilization, which brought order and prosperity to undeveloped lands, is in peril. If white people escape communist slavery, they may become amalgamated through mixing of the racial strains.

As Esau Jenkins said of integration, "It's a revolution."

Info

THE NEWS & COURIER  
Charleston, S.C.

Dated 3-12-59

Thomas R. Warren  
Editor

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# Horton Believes Charter Is Legal

## Highlander Director Feels Courts Will Kill Probers Attack

By GARRY FULLERTON

Myles Horton, executive director of Highlander Folk School, said yesterday he feels "fully confident" the courts will uphold Highlander's charter.

Horton's statement followed release of the report of the legislative committee which investigated the school. The report recommended that the general assembly

● See editorial "A Difference Which Should Be Noted," page 10.

instruct the district attorney general of the 18th judicial circuit to begin a suit for revocation of the school's charter.

"I am pleased that this investigation of the school is moving into the courtroom," Horton said. "There we can discuss it calmly, without hysteria. There rules of evidence apply, the school itself can introduce evidence and witnesses, and we can cross examine those who appear against us. Under such circumstances, I have no doubt whatever that Highlander's charter will be upheld."

But Highlander will continue in "one form or another," regardless of what happens to its charter, he added.

"Highlander is an educational idea," he said, "and ideas are hard to kill. I have no intention of stopping teaching the ideas I have been teaching for the past 25 years, and I will continue to present them in a way that may disturb those who misunderstand democratic processes."

**Concrete Evidence**  
The committee, formed to investigate alleged "subversive activities"

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

ities" at the Montegale, Tenn., adult education institution, turned up no concrete evidence of subversion in its report.

It did, however, point its finger at some alleged legal and financial irregularities which it said are grounds for a suit to revoke Highlander's charter as a tax-exempt institution.

The report was adopted by routine voice vote in both houses of the legislature yesterday. Then the committee's two senators, Barton Dement of Murfreesboro, the chairman, and Lawrence T. Hughes of Shelby county, introduced a resolution directing Dist. Atty. Gen. Albert F. Sloan to begin the suit to revoke the charter. A similar resolution will be introduced today in the house.

Other committee members were Reps. Harry Lee Senter of Bristol, Carter Patten of Chattanooga, and J. Alan Hanover of Memphis. J. H. McCarit, district attorney general of the 19th judicial district, served as its special counsel.

As reported in THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN Monday, the report

urged revocation of Highlander's charter on two main grounds:

- 1 That its charter is recorded in Fentress county and not in Grundy county, where its "principal office" is located, a violation of section 48-1104 of the Tennessee code annotated.
- 2 That in August, 1957, the board of directors of the school deeded "a large portion" of the school's property to Myles Horton, its executive director, an alleged violation of section 48-1106 of the code and of the school's own charter.

### 'Circumstantial Evidence'

Only a page and a half of the 14-page, legal-size report was devoted to "subversive activities" at the school. It said there is a "great deal of circumstantial evidence" to the effect that Highlander is a "meeting place for Communists or fellow-travelers." It also pointed out that a number of individuals, connected one way or another with Highlander, had been cited as members of so-called "Communist front" organizations.

Among those listed were James Dombrowski, Abner W. Berry, Martin Luther King, Donald L. West, John B. Thompson, Aubrey Williams and "Pete Seiger" (probably Pete Seeger, the folk singer).

The report did not mention Horton's own denial under oath that either he or Highlander was guilty of any kind of subversion, but concluded by stating: "Your committee feels that it is not within its province . . . to make a finding of fact" (with respect to the alleged subversive activities).

"It is our duty to make an investigation," the report said, "in aid of the proper authorities and law enforcement agencies of the state who may deem, on the basis of the evidence heretofore presented, that a further investigation or other action is necessary."

### Not Surprised

Horton said he was "not surprised, of course," that the committee turned up no evidence of subversion at the school.

"However, I wish they had

stated it forthrightly and clearly in their report," he said.

"Going back to what I said when this investigation began, I think it is not unreasonable for me to insist on a decisive and unequivocal report. If the charges of subversion were proven, then the doors of the school ought to be closed. If they were not, then the rumors

should be ended once and for all. I think the committee owes nothing less to the people of Tennessee."

Legal opinion here appeared uncertain yesterday whether much of a case could be made out for revocation of Highlander's charter.

"I think they might be right on that," said one lawyer, when asked about the charter registration requirements. He pointed out that it was merely a technical question, and that when Horton had presented the charter recently to be recorded in Grundy county, it had been refused by the registrar on instructions from the legislative investigating committee.

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Miss Gandy	

# School Charter Repeal Sought

## Highlander Report Will Urge Call for Revocation on 4 Charges

By JAMES TALLEY

A special legislative committee investigating Highlander Folk School will recommend tomorrow that the school's charter be revoked, a member of the group disclosed last night.

"Any court action, however, would be initiated by the Grundy county district attorney," Rep. Harry Lee Senter of Bristol said in an interview last night.

"A copy of the recommendation will be forwarded to him," Senter said.

The 25-year-old adult education school has been the subject of a month-long investigation by the five-man committee probing alleged subversive activities. Highlander is racially integrated.

Albert F. Sloan, district attorney general for Grundy and six other counties in the 18th judicial district, said last night he could not anticipate what action might be taken.

### Wants Facts First

"After I get the facts, study the Tennessee code, and determine whether or not there has been a violation of the law," he said, "I will be able to decide on any court action."

The school's charter is filed in Fentress county, but the school is located in Grundy county, near Monteagle. Senter said this would be the main basis for any court action.

He said the report will ask that Highlander's charter be revoked because:

- The school's corporation board has transferred property to director-founder Myles Horton "illegally."
- The charter was not "properly" filed in Grundy county.
- The school has "operated outside the scope of its charter" by

engaging in business in South Carolina."

• There has been no "certification" of a Highlander charter by the state secretary of state.

"All these things together are grounds for revocation we think—the committee thinks—without getting into the question of subversion," Senter said.

"But," he added, "we'll get into it (subversion) in the report."

Senter said the committee also will recommend that the legislative council study Tennessee laws of incorporation during the next two years, "with an aim of more rigid statutes of incorporation."

He said the report also will be sent to the U.S. Internal Revenue service "and maybe the testimony will show the school should have its tax-exemption revoked too."

Senter said the legislature is "limited to where the state can go in addition and subversion." He suggested the federal government might take over "where we have few laws that are applicable."



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- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Parsons
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Trotter
- Mr. W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Holloman
- Miss Gandy

# Horton Denies Bennett Charge

Arkansas Official Says He Thinks Highlander 'Communist Dominated'

By GARRY FULLERTON  
 Myles Horton, Highlander Folk School director, heatedly denied yesterday Arkansas Atty. Gen. Bruce Bennett's accusation that the school is "communist dominated."

Horton and Bennett were the two main witnesses in a day-long public hearing on the school in the War Memorial auditorium. Sen. Barton Dement of Murfreesboro, chairman of the joint legislative committee probing charges of subversive activities at the school, adjourned the hearing until 9 a.m. today.

Bennett who followed Horton to the stand did not testify directly about the school, but entered into the record testimony from previous investigations allegedly linking persons connected with the school with various "Communist front" organizations. Then there occurred this exchange:

Rep. Harry Lee Senter of Bristol: "Mr. Bennett, is it your opinion that the Highlander Folk school is Communist dominated?"  
 Bennett (after a moment's hesitation): "Yes, sir."

The Arkansas official, who appeared in a neat dark blue suit and black tie, told the committee he is "glad to do anything I can

to expose the Communist conspiracy."

### Leaves for Little Rock

After his testimony, he shook hands with committee members and said: "Run 'em out, boys, run 'em out. That's the main thing." Then he left to return to Little Rock.

Horton, who spent a total of four and one half hours on the stand yesterday, denied that either he or Highlander is Communist or subversive in any way.

This information, too, was brought out by Senter in the following exchanges:  
 Senter: "Are you now or have

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you ever been a member of the Communist party or any other subversive organization?"

Horton: "I am not and have never been a member of the Communist party, under instructions from the Communist party, or a member of any group under the domination of the Communist party."

Sender: "Well, why haven't you joined any of these organizations? You seem to associate with people who belong to them."

Horton: "Maybe I don't agree with their aims."

Sender: "Are you a believer in the Marxist-Lenin ideology?"

Horton: "No, sir. I believe in education."

Sender: "In other words, then, you have strayed from the Marxist line. Is that right? Are you sympathetic with the foreign and domestic policies of the Soviet Union?"

Horton: "No, sir."

Sender: "Are identified Communists eligible for any positions at Highlander Folk school?"

Horton: "No, sir."

Sender: "Was your wife a member of the Communist party?"

Horton: "No, sir, not to my knowledge, and I would have known."

Sender: "Do you ever accept contributions from the Communist party or Communist organizations?"

Horton: "No, sir."

Sender: "Do you ever solicit funds from them?"

Horton: "No, sir."

About 50 spectators were present in the big auditorium when the hearings opened 30 minutes late at 9:30 a.m. The crowd grew to nearly 200 by mid-afternoon when a colored movie of Highlander was shown, then dwindled again to a handful by the time the hearings were adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

In addition to newsmen from all parts of the state, the audience included a group of students from the University of the South, a number of Nashville clergymen, two Central high school seniors from Murfreesboro, and representatives of the Tennessee Federation for Constitutional Government, a segregation organization.

Bennett was not the only out-of-state witness who testified against the folk school yesterday. Also on hand was Ed Friend of Atlanta, now a \$5,100-a-year cameraman with the Georgia Forestry commission, and a former employe of the now-defunct Georgia Commission on Education.

Joseph A. Malone of Montgomery, Ala., assistant attorney general of Alabama, helped show the 12-minute motion picture which was meant to be one of the highlights of the day's testimony, but did not take the stand himself.

Other witnesses yesterday were

Clarence E. Kilgore, postmaster at Tracy City since 1934, and Maj. R. H. Thompson and W. H. Hamm of Rockwood, Tenn.

#### Assisted by Attorney

Horton, the first man called to the stand, answered questions from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., and again from 1:30 p.m. until 3 p.m. He was dressed in a dark blue suit, white shirt and blue and white striped tie, and was assisted by his attorney, Jordan Stokes III of Nashville.

One of the first dramatic moments during the hearing came when Horton and Stokes refused to allow the committee to enter as an exhibit the original copy of the school's charter. "We'll give you a certified copy," Stokes said, but Dement answered that would not be good enough.

"I'll have to advise him (Horton) not to let this document out of his possession," Stokes replied.

Dement then instructed Sgt. Joe Williams of the Tennessee-highway patrol, the committee sergeant at arms, to take the charter from Horton.

"I want the record to show that this document was taken from us by physical force," Stokes said.

Horton had previously testified the school's charter had been registered in Fentress county instead of Grundy county because at the time it was obtained (1934) Highlander's main headquarters were at Allard, Tenn.

"I went to the Grundy county courthouse yesterday and tried to register the charter," Horton said, "but they told me you told them not to let me do it. If the charter is wrong, I want to correct it, but apparently the committee doesn't want it corrected."

Horton said he had been a member of the board of both the Southern Conference Educational Fund, fare and its successor, the Southern Conference Educational Fund, organizations which have been listed as "subversive" by the House un-American activities committee.

The Highlander director said he didn't think they were subversive, because "there were a lot of wonderful people on those boards, and I'm proud to have taken part in them."

J. H. McCart, committee counsel, asked him: "Do you mean wonderful people like James Dombrowski (one of the founders of Highlander and the executive secretary of both the SCHW and SCEF)?"

"Yes, I would include him," Horton replied. "I think he is a man of great integrity."

During most of the questioning of Horton, Bennett sat beside McCart and offered suggestions in a low whisper. When committee members took over the questioning, Bennett moved around be-

hind the committee table and fed questions to Sender.

McCart queried Horton about Highlander's political activities.

"Doesn't Participate in Politics" "The school has never taken part in politics," Horton said. "I have, but the school has not."

"Don't you know that you tried to win the election for Henry Wallace in 1948?" McCart asked.

"No, sir," Horton replied. "It may have been a mistake, but I didn't support Henry Wallace for President."

Horton identified several pictures on a large sheet distributed by the Georgia Commission on Education as having been taken at Highlander. He said two of them, however, were unfair. One showed Highlander leaders with Abner W. Berry, an admitted Communist. Horton said this had been posed by Friend, who took the photo and pushed Berry into the group just before snapping the shutter.

The other picture showed a Negro man and a white woman apparently embracing. Horton said it was really a square dance step in which hands are clasped behind the partner's head. He stood up and with McCart's aid demonstrated the step, to the delight of the audience.

Rep. J. Alan Hanover questioned Horton at some length about the school's finances and property. Horton said a piece of property transferred to him in 1957 had been deeded to him by the school's board of directors in lieu of back salary.

#### No Legal Claim To Pay

Under Hanover's questions, however, he admitted that he had no legal claim to back salary, and said he had in fact made no demand upon the school.

"So that property was really just a gift, wasn't it?" Hanover asked.

"I've read you the facts, the minutes of the committee about this," Horton said. "You can call it what you want to."

He said he plans to pay taxes on the property deeded to him, but has not done so yet because the property has not yet been assessed.

"I've written a couple of times asking them to assess it," he said, "but I guess they haven't got around to it."

#### Turns Over Statements

At the committee's demand, Horton turned over all the school's financial statements since its founding together with a card file of contributors.

Told that an admitted Communist, Paul Crouch, had said the Communist party uses Highlander without wanting to be identified in the public mind with the school, Horton replied:

"This man is a paid informer and a professional liar. I challenged him to make those statements outside the committee in the presence of witnesses so I

could sue him, but he didn't dare to."

During the afternoon session, Horton testified that although he had at one time been a theological student, he is not a member of any church at the present time. The reason, he said, is that churches in the vicinity of Mont-eagle will not admit Negroes to worship services, and "I don't feel I can go to church and leave some of our people behind at Highlander, telling them that brotherhood doesn't apply."

Senter asked him: "Do you believe in God?"

"Yes, sir," Horton replied.

"And in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?" Senter asked.

"Yes, sir," Horton said again.

"Then, why don't you pray up there at Highlander?" Senter asked.

"Highlander is not a religious institution," Horton said.

The committee's session did not open with a prayer.

"Do you think a man can be a Communist and still be loyal to the U.S. government?" Senter asked.

"I know I couldn't," Horton said. "That's all I can say."

The 12-minute motion picture which followed Horton's testimony showed Negroes and white persons entering and leaving the school library on the occasion of Highlander's 25th anniversary celebration, Labor day weekend, 1957. It also showed Negroes and whites swimming together in the lake behind the school.

Friend, the Georgia photographer, commented on the film as it was being screened. He said he had made the film himself. The only known Communist pictured was Berry.

Later, on the witness stand, Friend said he had lied to Horton about his affiliations when he came to Highlander to make the

film. He said he told Horton falsely that he was a commercial photographer and free lance writer planning to do an article on Highlander. He also told the Highlander director he knew Ralph McGill of the Atlanta Constitution and A. T. Welden, an NAACP attorney.

Asked why he had lied, he replied:

"I assume I wouldn't have been a very welcome guest at Highlander if he (Horton) had known my purpose there."

Friend said during one workshop he sat in on at Highlander, the advice had been given to use "children, women, old people and preachers" to push integration, "because white men won't attack them for fear of appearing to be bullies."

#### Testimony Links Others

Bennett, in his testimony, said Highlander has been linked one way or another with the following individuals who have been cited as belonging to various "Communist front" organizations:

- Anne and Carl Braden, field secretaries of the Southern Conference Educational Fund.
- Lucian Koch, former president of Commonwealth college, Ark.
- James Dombrowski, executive secretary of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and SCEF.
- Dean Charles Gomillion, now on leave of absence from Tuskegee Institute, Ala.
- Claude C. Williams, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister.
- Abner W. Berry, a Communist and contributor to the Daily Worker.
- Lee and Grace Lorch, who have been accused of Communist affiliations.

The self-assured Bennett stumbled only once in his testimony. He referred to the Bradens as

being connected with the Southern Regional Council, instead of the Southern Conference Educational Fund. The investigating committee appeared not to notice the mistake.

Summarizing his testimony, he said:

"If a barnyard goose is lured into a flock of wild geese, he may be excused only if he leaves the flock. But if he continues flying in formation with them, then he is a wild goose, no matter how loudly he may protest that he is not.

"I feel like that school (High

land) has been flying in formation with a lot of people who have as their goal the destruction of the United States as we know it and the placing into power of a Communist conspiracy."

Kilgore, the Tracy City postmaster, testified that "40 or 50 copies of the Daily Worker" were received by members of the Workers' Alliance during the early 1930s when Horton was helping organize them. The Daily Worker was a Communist paper formerly published in New York.

Stokes, Horton's counsel, asked

the committee if Kilgore could not have confused the Daily Worker with "The Worker," a publication of the Workers' Alliance.

"Ask him (Kilgore) if it was a daily paper," Stokes suggested, adding that he knew the committee wanted to conduct the hearings in the spirit of fair play.

Dement refused, snapping: "We'll conduct this hearing as we see fit."

Kilgore later told reporters the paper he was referring to came weekly or monthly, not daily.

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- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

Eleanor/Roosevelt's Day

# I'm Grieved Over School Probe

I HAVE been grieved to see that the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tenn., is being investigated, ostensibly under the accusation of communism. Actually, the objection is and always has been that it provides a meeting place for colored and white to discuss subjects of mutual interest to both races, and particularly that it has helped to train people in the labor movement.

strength it has today in the South this school helped the unpopular labor organizer. It is still none too popular to be a labor organizer in certain areas of the South and for a school to have stood fearlessly for integration and for labor rights and to have made a good name in its own community and friends in its own community I think speaks well for the school and its director, as well as its supporters.

afraid to testify in favor of the right of this school to function. It is true that even some (happily only a few) of our highly placed Southern senators and congressmen have used this threat of accusing an organization or an individual of communism when what they really meant was that they were strengthening the cause of integration and labor in the South.

are the earmarks of a real Communist; and we should dread the growth of communism anywhere in our country. But I have yet to see any growth in the Communist Party in the United States and I have yet to find anywhere a really intelligent and mature person who believes in communism as it is practiced today in the Soviet Union.

There may be a few people who may have been attracted by the ideal of communism, which has never been achieved, but they are usually theorists and have never faced the real facts of communism or so-called socialism as practiced in communistic Russia, Red China, or anywhere else that I know of.

Before the labor movement had even reached the

I hope no one will be

We want to be aware of the threat of communism; we want to be taught what

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*File - 5-29*  
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- The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News 4
- The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_
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- The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- Date MAR 12 1959

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67 MAR 31 1959

## Governor Gets Measure For Closing Of Highlander

From The Commercial Appeal Nashville Bureau

NASHVILLE, March 13. — A resolution to open the way for possible revocation of the charter of the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle got final legislative approval Friday and went to the Governor.

The resolution instructs the district attorney general in the Highlander area to take steps to have the charter revoked. This would remove the school's tax exemption and possibly provide the means for taxing it out of existence.

A special legislative committee that investigated Highlander said it had collected evidence to show the school is a meeting place for communists and fellow travelers.

The committee also reported the school certificates of incorporation had not been filed in Grundy County, where the institution is located, and that some school property had been transferred to Miles Horton, director of Highlander.

*The Commercial Appeal.  
Memphis, Tenn.*

*3-14-59 issue*

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Highlander Folk School*

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Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

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# Mixing Cuts Insurance At Highlander

By JIM SCOTT  
Highlander Folk School's insurance policies were canceled last year because underwriters feared the school would be bombed due to its interracial activities.

*HIGHLANDER FOLK*

**REC-136**

School Director Myles Horton told the investigating committee today that insurance companies took the action after the bombings of synagogues in the South.

During this period—two or three months—the school asked for and received special contributions to create a fund for rebuilding in the event the school was damaged by violence, Horton said.

However, Horton said the school later obtained insurance from Lloyd's of London by paying the "total premium in advance by lump sum."

The director-founder added, "We are having trouble with insurance again because of this investigation." He said the school's automobile insurance was canceled when the current probe was announced.

Today's hearing wound up

*File FIVE*  
*TEAM. NC*  
*APPROX 1905*

Nashville Banner  
Nashville, Tennessee  
3-5-59 p. 1

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*Highlander Folk School*

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**REC-136**

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about 22 hours of testimony. The committee adjourned at 11 a.m. subject to call of Chairman Barton Dement of Murfreesboro. The panel is due to report to the legislature Tuesday. The committee dies with adjournment of the legislature.

Most of today's hearing was aimed at the school's financial policies. Rep. J. Alan Hanover, an attorney, questioned Horton closely on the school's bank accounts and deposits with a savings and loan association in California. Horton said the school had a total of about \$28,000 on deposit. He was vague about interest rates, and agreed to produce a complete audit for the committee.

The Wednesday afternoon session was highlighted by testimony of Arkansas Atty. Gen. Bruce Bennett.

Bennett, a Vanderbilt University school of law graduate, told the five-man Senate-House committee that he believes Highlander is Communist dominated and the Reds have had a hand in stirring up racial unrest in the South.

Myles Horton, 54-year-old director and founder of the school, located near Monteagle, is scheduled to return to the stand this morning.

Horton, who spent nearly five hours testifying Wednesday, has denied that he is a Communist or has any communistic leanings. He maintains that the Communists dislike Highlander.

#### 'These Characters'

Bennett linked "these characters" either with Highlander or Horton:

Pete Seeger, Chattanooga guitarist-singer, who has taken part in Highlander activities; cited 66 times for subversive activities.

The Rev. Claude Williams of Paris, Ark., unfrocked Presbyterian minister, who espoused land reform in Arkansas similar to the Chinese Communists; cited 25 or 30 times for subversive activities.

Lucian Koch, former head of the now defunct Commonwealth College in Mena, Ark., which was closed as a nuisance, and said to be a friend of Horton's.

James Dombrowski, head of the Southern Conference on Human Welfare which closed down after being placed on subversive list, now head of successor group Southern Conference Education Fund of New Orleans; charter signer of Highlander, cited for subversive activities 45 times.

*Chas. G. Tomlinson*  
**Charles G. Tomlinson**, dean of Tuskegee, Ala., Institute, member of Highlander executive council, who was instrumental in sending Negro professor to Arkansas to find "soft spots" for integration.

Aubrey Williams, now publisher of *Tam* periodical in Birmingham, closely identified with Highlander and speaker at its 25th anniversary celebration in 1957; cited for subversive activities 28 times.

Abner Perry, Negro, identified a Communist, who attended anniversary celebration; cited 28 times.

Lee and Grace Borch, active in Little Rock racial disturbance; once connected with Fisk University and Highlander participants; once took the Fifth Amendment before a Federal investigating committee when queried about Communist connections.

The Arkansas official charged that Horton attended a secret North Carolina meeting which espoused revolutionary ideas.

"The Highlander Folk School," he said, "keeps pretty close to the party line and in close touch with Communist fronts."

#### United Front

Bennett also said that Horton in 1935 took an active interest in the United Front, a combination of the Socialist and Com-

munist parties whose objective "was to overthrow our way of life."

Referring to Arkansas integration troubles and closed-down Commonwealth College, Bennett said, "the same events have occurred in our state which have been unfolded in your state."

"You people certainly have a problem here."

He stated that an Arkansas investigative committee recently found "subversive connections in racial unrest." He said \$50,000 was spent to promote racial strife in Arkansas.

Ed Friend, a photographer for the State of Georgia, who infiltrated the school to report to the Georgia Commission on Education said Highlander "is subversive to the way I have been taught to live in America."

#### Interracial Photos

Friend took both still and moving pictures of interracial activities at the school. The motion pictures showed whites and Negroes swimming together.

Friend said his wife, who attended some of the Highlander sessions with him, was "so disgusted she cried."

Also here on invitation of the committee is Joseph A. Malone, an assistant state attorney general from Alabama.



- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

# Speech Denied, Teacher Says

## Highlander School Defense Talk Banned, Scarritt Woman Says

By WAYNE WHITT  
A Nashville educator charged yesterday the legislative committee investigating Highlander Folk school refused to permit her to testify in defense of the Grundy county adult education institution.

Miss Alice Cobb, director of rural field work at Scarritt college, said she was told Wednesday by the committee she would be permitted to testify yesterday. But the five-member committee adjourned without hearing her.

"I don't understand why they wouldn't permit me to testify," she said. "I thought they would want the full story, but apparently not."

**Seek Extra Pay**  
As the committee concluded the hearing and prepared to write a report to be delivered to the legislature Tuesday, it was reported reliably some members of the committee want to ask the legislature to pay extra for their probing the school.

A legislator close to the committee said if the group does decide to ask for pay over and above the \$15 a day they are receiving as members of the legislature the proposal will originate in the senate.

The lawmaker would not say how much the members want other than "it is substantially more than they make in the legislature."

He added he was against allowing them extra pay.

Horton testified insurance policies on the school's property were canceled "when synagogues were being bombed. Our insurance was canceled because the insurance company felt we might be bombed because of our interracial activities."

He said for several months the institution was without insurance "but we finally were able

*File FIVE*

Nashville Tennessean  
Nashville, Tennessee  
3-6-59 p. 1  
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*Highlander Folk School*

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to get insurance again by getting it from Lloyds of London."

"When we couldn't get insurance we asked our friends to pledge \$10, \$50, or \$100 to help us rebuild in case the school was destroyed," Horton continued, "and they did, many of them from Tennessee."

He said fear of future trouble over insurance was the reason for the existence of a \$5,000 insurance fund at the school.

"And because of this investigation," Horton continued, "the insurance on our automobile has been canceled. We've set some money aside in case we can't get insurance."

Hanover and Horton sparred with each other as the Memphis lawmaker questioned Horton about the school's bank accounts and funds.

#### Claims One Account

The director testified the school had only one account on which it wrote checks and that was in a bank at Sewanee. He said in addition the school had some funds invested in savings and loans associations in California "because our auditor found we could get higher interest there." Horton also testified that the school had a general fund and then a fund for special projects. He said at times

contributions are earmarked for special projects.

"Would there be in shuffling of these funds around to fool anyone as to what you actually have?" Hanover asked.

"We try very hard to make it clear," Horton shot back. "We have to satisfy our contributors and I don't think the foundations which give us money would keep sending us money year after year and increasing their contributions if they weren't satisfied."

"That's no proof," Hanover interrupted.

"Let him answer the question; you've been arguing with him," Jordan Stokes III, Horton's attorney, said.

"I want him to answer, and you know I have not argued with him at all," Hanover replied. "Every time I ask a question he tries to talk around it."

"I'm not trying to talk around anything," Horton said. "I'm trying to explain a program that is difficult to explain."

Horton, neatly dressed in a dark blue suit, would reach into his pocket or his briefcase at his feet for records as questions were fired at him.

The hearing played to a near empty house in the big War Memorial building auditorium. About 50 were in the chamber and this included committee members, their

staff, newsmen, a maintenance man assigned to the building and a janitor.

Several supporters of Highlander were in the auditorium in addition to Miss Cobb. One of the others was Miss May Justus, who said she too had hoped to testify in defense of Highlander before the committee adjourned. Miss Justus, secretary-treasurer of the Highlander board of directors, testified before the committee in Tracy City last week.

The committee didn't give any reason for not hearing the woman.

Miss Cobb said she had wanted to tell the committee "I have never at any time seen any indication of activities or teachings which were subversive, and have been especially impressed with the keen interest in supporting the principles of democracy, and educating participants in these principles. I should say that this is a strong move to strengthen our citizenry against threats of communism."

Rep. Harry Lee Senter, committee member and author of the resolution which led to the investigation, questioned Horton about the source of contributions to the school.

"Why is it so much of your money comes from New York, the Bronx and Brooklyn and around the University of Chicago?" Senter asked.

#### Money Where It Is

"The money comes from where the money is," Horton replied. "We collect it where we can get it and bank it at Sewanee. When we ask for funds we don't care whether it comes from Brooklyn, the Bronx or anywhere."

"That's right," Senter said, "you don't care where it comes from, do you?"

"I have never solicited money from any Communist organization," Horton retorted. "I contribute to Highlander myself and I don't contribute to any subversive organization."

Senter then reached into records taken from the school and started calling names from cards and asking about them.

The first name he drew was that of Ora C. Johnson of Paris, Ark.

"Who is this?" Senter shouted. "Why does it have on the card not to send appeal letters?"

#### Mother-in-Law

"That just happens to be my mother-in-law," Horton replied. "She doesn't have much money and I didn't want letters going to her asking for contributions."

Senter selected more than dozen cards. On one card there was a notation to address the person by his first name.

"There is nothing subversive about calling people by their first names," Horton said.

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Odds on Report

From what I have seen and heard of the investigation," he continued, "I don't see how they're even going to write a report."

The legislator said in the past some members of investigative groups had been allowed additional pay. The legislature appropriated \$5,000 for the investigation. It could not be learned yesterday how much of this has been spent as all expense accounts have not been filled.

Asked about seeking additional pay, Sen. Barton Dement, chairman of the committee, said he knew nothing about it. He said the group would file an interim report with the general assembly Tuesday.

Only Myles Horton, founder and director of the school, testified during yesterday's hour and a half session. But Horton, who spent nearly five hours in the witness chair Wednesday, was asked more about the school's financial policies than about charges of subversive activities.

During questioning about finances by Rep. Alan Hanover, committee member from Memphis,

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# CHATTANOOGA NEWS-FREE PRESS

ROY McDONALD  
President and Publisher

EVERETT ALLEN  
Treasurer

LEE ANDERSON  
Editor

Published Each Afternoon Except Sunday

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1959

## Taxes Send More to Highlander

The News-Free Press commented the other day on the use of the American taxpayers' money to finance a State Department exchange student program that will bring a woman from Liberia to take part in activities at the notorious Highlander Folk School near Mont-eagle, Tenn. But it has turned out that is only part of the story.

In addition to the Liberian woman sponsored by the State Department's International Educational Exchange Service, Highlander Folk School is going to be visited today through Sept. 8 by 11 French students under State Department grants for "an experiment in international living."

There are grave questions as to the advisability of perverting the student exchange program by requiring the taxpayers to support junkets to an institution which is not really a school in the usual sense—and is an institution that

certainly the Government of the United States should not give any semblance of official support.

We do not expect ever to find out what the cost of the tours of the Liberian woman and the 11 Frenchmen to Highlander really is. The State Department wraps up such programs in a deep camouflage of red tape so that costs of the exchange programs is difficult to discover, although it is ascertainable that some 22 million dollars has been appropriated for some of the program.

While we may never know the cost in dollars of State Department sponsorship of Liberian and French visitors to Highlander Folk School, the cost will be somewhere in the tax bill of the American people. But far worse than the dollar cost is the disgusting fact that the State Department has any part in sponsoring individuals at the highly suspect Highlander Folk School.

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### Tax Money For A Highlander Visit?

The State Department has confirmed that the International Education Exchange Service of the department is spending some \$1,800 a person for 11 French teachers to visit the highly controversial Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tenn.

The visits, says a State Department official, although paid for by the government were arranged by something called the "Experiment in International Living" of Putney, Vt. The spokesman says that organization as been found to be reputable.

The whole affair raises questions promptly. Highlander has been in considerable hot water lately. For more than two decades the school, under Director Myles Horton, has openly advocated integration. "Courses" are taught there

which lead to no degree. But they are heavily laden with sociological import and the whole direction of the school is far to the left. Labor union organizational methods are among the subjects taught.

Nobody knows apparently just how far left the school is. The Tennessee Legislature some months ago intensively investigated it but it came up with something short of specific findings. Efforts have been made to close the place up as a public nuisance. Hearings are now pending on a circuit attorney's petition to padlock. Only a few weeks ago local officers raided the school and discovered liquor on the premises. Arrests were made.

The use of public money for any such visit is or ought to be subject to detailed inquiry.

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS  
9/11/59  
Birmingham, Alabama  
Red Star Final  
Editorial  
S. VINCENT TOWNSEND-  
Executive Editor.  
BH Office.

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
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# Anti-Ross Leaflets Fill Mails

By HAINES COLBERT  
Somebody out there doesn't like Malcolm (Mike) Ross, University of Miami editor, novelist and composer of humorous ditties.

Ross was attacked in a leaflet which was turning up in the mail of Miamians yesterday.

The anonymous writer of the printed sheet said Ross is a supporter of the Highlander Folk School of Monteagle, Tenn. The school, said the sheet, is communistic.

The anonymous writer of the printed sheet said Ross is a supporter of the Highlander School of Monteagle, Tenn. The school, said the sheet, is communistic.

Ross retorted that the school isn't communistic, but has been under attack for years by an "un-dying bunch of fatheads."

Said Ross:

"Highlander is a racially integrated school, which is the reason for the attacks on it. It's been investigated repeatedly, and all the Tennessee newspapers have said the school officials are being made the objects of a witch hunt.

### LOTS OF SUPPORT

"I think the school has done a lot of good and it is supported by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and dozens of others, including college professors and clergymen."

The leaflet quoted an American Legion publication, The Firing Line, in saying Ross was a member of the school "guarantors committee" — a group which raises funds for Highlander.

It listed the trustees of the university and urged readers to call them and protest Ross.

"In the name of everything that is Christian and American," the anonymous leaflet author wrote, "these men should be requested to give an accounting of their trusteeship."

While the American Legion publication was quoted freely in the leaflet, Legion officers said they had nothing to do with it.

**DON'T APPROVE**  
"We didn't sanction the use of the Legion name and we don't approve of it," said A. J. Thomas Jr., of Starke, past department commander and Americanism Committee member.

"If we want to criticize somebody, we tell him. Anything put out by the American Legion has its name on it."

Lee E. Anderson, editor of the Chattanooga News-Free Press, said Ross wasn't entirely correct in claiming all Tennessee newspapers have supported the school. He explained:

"We've criticized the school because a bunch of liberals like Mrs. Roosevelt are tied up with it. But we never have said it is communistic."

"The Nashville Banner has taken about the same stand. But the Tennessean and the Chattanooga Times have gone to bat for the school."

### STARTED IN '30s

Ross said he became acquainted with the school when he was public relations director of the National Labor Relations Board in the '30s.

"Myles Horton and two other graduates of the Union Theological Seminary decided to help the people in a ruined coal county of Tennessee—their home state," said Ross. "They've done a lot for the miners there."

"Actually, I haven't done much for the school, but I'm not in the least ashamed of what I have done."

Dr. Jay F. W. Pearson, University of Miami president, was out of town, but U-M vice presidents were unconcerned about the leaflet.

"I don't care about getting into it," said Dr. H. Franklin Williams, one of the vice presidents, "but if it comes to standing up and being counted for Mike then I'll do it."

Dr. James M. Godard, executive vice president, said he hadn't seen the leaflet and wasn't interested in it.

The attack apparently wasn't gaining much support.

Harry Hood Bassett, top man on the list of trustees to whom the leaflet readers were supposed to protest, said no one had called him.



MALCOLM ROSS  
Racists Behind Attack?

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Miami News  
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Miami Fla.

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### Interracial School Charter Lifted by Tennessee Judge

ALTAMONT, Tenn., Feb. 17 (AP).—Circuit Court Judge C. C. Chattin yesterday revoked the charter of Highland Folk School and ordered the Interracial Adult Education Center near Monteagle placed under receivership.

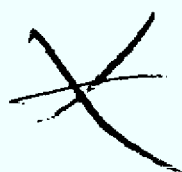
In an 11-page decision filed in Grundy County Circuit Court, Judge Chattin ruled the school had violated Tennessee segregation laws and laws pertaining to the sale of beer.

The judge ruled further that a deed giving school property to Myles Horton, its founder-president, was invalid and that the property, about 70 acres, must be turned back to the school.

Revocation of the general welfare charter was sought by District Attorney General A. B. Sloan on the ground that the 27-year-old school had been used for personal gain of Mr. Horton.

Mr. Sloan also charged that Highlander had engaged in commercial activities in violation of its nonprofit charter.

The judge issued his decision on the basis of a trial held in November.



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**NEW TRIAL ASKED**

# Highlander Folk School's charter revoked

**H**IGHLANDER Folk School at Monteagle, Tenn., for 28 years an outstanding interracial adult educational center, was stripped of its state charter on Feb. 16. Cecil D. Banstetter, Nashville lawyer defending the school, announced he would file a motion for a new trial and would press the case "through every possible judicial channel in search of justice for the school."

Circuit Court Judge Chester C. Chatten ruled that the school violated its charter by "permitting integration in its school work." He ordered a receiver to wind up the school's affairs.

**THEY'RE GOING ON:** It was believed Chatten has authority to put his order into effect pending an appeal, but Myles Horton, school president, said:

"We are going ahead with our current educational program. We have a residential workshop for ministers and social workers scheduled for the coming week-end. Our extension program is also continuing for the present. This ruling, as far as I have been able to ascertain, does not interfere with our current program. If I am wrong about that, someone will have to tell me, but there has been no court order stopping anything yet."

The defense had argued that Tennessee's 62-year-old segregation laws prohibiting integrated classes and workshops had been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, but Judge Chatten ruled that the Supreme Court decision applied to public but not private schools. He said the state's laws "as applied to private schools are constitutional and valid."

**THE BACKGROUND:** Judge Chatten's ruling is the latest development in a long campaign by the state to close the school. Last July police raided it as a "public nuisance" and its main building was padlocked temporarily on a charge that beer was sold there without a license.

In November a jury handed down an advisory verdict that the school was operated for "the personal gain and enrichment" of Myles Horton. Judge Chatten cited both these earlier cases in his order revoking the school's charter, and he voided a deed of a plot of school grounds to Horton upon which he had built a home at his own expense. Testimony showed that for 20 years of the school's existence, Horton had drawn no salary, and currently receives \$9,000 a year which is considered low when compared to similar posts.

If the Chatten ruling stands, it could affect many other Tennessee colleges and universities where racially integrated classes are conducted.

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**184 MAR 15 1960**

- The Washington Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_
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- New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Post \_\_\_\_\_
- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
- The Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- Date 2/29/60
- "National Guardian" page 5

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- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDERED TO CLOSE**

# Highlander school loses appeal in state supreme court

**HIGHLANDER** Folk School, Mont-eagle, Tenn., lost another round in its battle for survival when the Tennessee Supreme Court on April 5 upheld a lower court order revoking the school's charter and ordered it to close.

The school, founded in 1932, has long been under attack because of its complete integration. Highlander has stimulated Negro voter registration by training people to teach literacy. Recently the school and Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference announced a joint training project for sit-in demonstrators.

The school and its directors, Myles Horton and Septima Clark, have also been attacked as "communists." In 1957 they were defended against this charge by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, a long-time defender of the school, and by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr and others.

The present case began in 1959 after a party at the school was raided by local police and three staff members were arrested on intoxication charges. The State Supreme Court ordered the school closed on the grounds that Horton had operated the school for private gain and that intoxicating beverages had been sold on the premises. The Court did not rule on another holding of the lower court that the school violated state segregation laws.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/6/84 BY SP8BTD/CW  
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- The Washington Post and \_\_\_\_\_
- Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Post \_\_\_\_\_
- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
- The Worker \_\_\_\_\_
- The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
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"National Guardian"  
Page 7

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## Highlander No Help

There is not generally much good news from the Supreme Court, for the South.

But we can be pleased with the jurists' decision of yesterday in which they declined to review a Tennessee order which revoked the charter of Highlander folk school near Monteagle, Tenn.

The revocation came because of beer selling there and because the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled that the director, Nyles Horton, had been operating the school for his private gain.

The state high court did not rule on racial questions but a lower court judge

had held earlier that the Highlander school had violated state segregation laws by having an interracial student body.

Word from Tennessee has been that the school has taken out a new charter and plans to open a new center in Knoxville to carry out the "Highlander ideal."

Highlander school has been an adult education organization which followed a line much to the left of center. In the present troubled condition in the South, we can get along without such an institution.

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD  
 10-10-61 (Editorial)  
 Birmingham, Alabama  
 Editor - JAMES E. MILLS  
 BH OFFICE.

② HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
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# 28 Seized in Raid On CORE Training Camp in Tennessee

MARYVILLE, Tenn., June 20 (AP)—Twenty-eight young white and Negro men and women were jailed here early today after a sheriff's raid on their Smoky Mountain area training camp sponsored by CORE, Blount County Sheriff Roger Trotter reported.

Putney, Vt., said he and his wife were conducting the classes. He said he was director of the North-South Smoky Mountain Workshop, a branch of the Highlander Folk School in Knoxville.

Trotter said he raided the camp after complaints from nearby Townsend residents of disturbances at the tents and cabins at the edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The biracial Highlander School lost its state charter two years ago when it was situated near Monteagle, Tenn. Its operator, Myles Horton, has since opened a school in Knoxville.

The 28, ranging in age from 16 to 27, are being held on an open charge pending the arrival of FBI officers from Knoxville, Trotter said.

Trotter said another batch of students was due at the camp June 23.

Most of those arrested were from outside the state, Trotter said, but two boys were from Oak Ridge, Tenn. Included were two white girls, six Negro girls, nine white men and 11 Negro men, most of them from eastern states.

The sheriff confiscated pamphlets from the camp, including instructions on combatting police dogs and fire hoses. Some whisky was also seized.

Robert Gustafson, 27, of

The camp had been operating about ten days. One of those arrested identified the camp sponsor as CORE and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

*File-5*

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/6/84 BY SP8 BTG/CL

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- The Washington Post and Times Herald A-6
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- The Evening Star \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Journal-American \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Mirror \_\_\_\_\_
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- The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**Mayor Answers Bible Class**

# City Lacks Authority To Ban Highlander

The state issued the charter to the Highlander Research and Education Center here and only the state can revoke it, Mayor John Duncan says.

This was the gist of a letter written by the mayor to Walter Gourdin of the Baraca Class of Fountain City's Central Baptist Church.

This was a response to a request by the class that the city "padlock the doors and revoke the license" of the controversial center headed by Myles Horton.

**'Greatly Concerned'**

"We certainly have been greatly concerned about the operation of this place since it has been in Knoxville," the mayor wrote.

He noted that he served on an American Legion committee "many years ago when it first asked the State Legislature to investigate the Highlander Folk School while it was located at Monteagle."

However, Mr. Duncan recalled that nothing was done by the town of Monteagle nor by the Legislature to close the school at Monteagle.

**City Doesn't Charter**

He said the state attorney general revoked the school's charter "on the basis that the school was being operated illegally to some of the students and visitors at the school."

"Some 10 days after the state revoked the charter," the mayor's letter continued, "for some unknown reason, the secretary of state issued a new charter under a different name to the same individual (Mr. Horton) who had headed the school while it was at Monteagle."

"The city . . . does not issue

charters or licenses to corporations or schools. They are issued by the state . . . and consequently, if they are revoked, they must be revoked by the granting authority."

**'Would Welcome Evidence'**

Mr. Duncan, in his letter, said it might be "worthwhile" for Atty. Gen. Clarence Blackburn to conduct an investigation of Highlander, "because if one were held it is possible that some individuals who did have information concerning violations of the law would come forth and divulge this information in a public investigation . . ."

The mayor said he is not "pleased" that "this individual" is operating in the city. He said it is causing "unnecessary work" for the Safety Department. He also said he would "welcome any evidence or information that you or anyone else might have concerning any violation of any ordinance of the city."

**Contributions Tax-Exempt**

He said he is sure that the FBI is "diligent" in any matter concerning "subversive activities . . ." He also noted that "Federal authorities have also recognized this place as an institution that is tax exempt and people who desire to make donations to it can take credit for such donation in their Federal income tax."

The mayor said, "Neither the city, county nor state of Tennessee can act on an assumption, and all legal authorities in Knoxville that I have discussed this matter with agree with this 100 per cent."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/6/84 BY SP8 BTG/CPD

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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1 THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

*[Handwritten signature]*

Date: 7/24/63  
Edition: HOME  
Author:  
Editor: LOYE W. MILLER  
Title: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL

Character:  
or  
Classification: 61-12  
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

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**DUNCAN SAYS—**  
**City Lacks Authority**  
**To Padlock Highlander**

The city does not have the authority to padlock the doors and revoke the license of the Highlander Research and Educational Center, according to a letter received by the Baraca class of Central Baptist Church of Fountain City from Mayor John Duncan.

The letter was the result of a resolution drawn up by the 70 members of the class petitioning the mayor and City Council to put the center out of business.

The mayor in his answer to the petition said the state issued the charter to the center here and only the state has the power to revoke it.

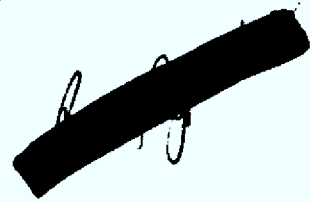
Highlander, which moved to Knoxville in 1961 after its charter for a similar school at Monteagle was revoked, is under the direction of Myles Horton.

Mayor Duncan said it might

be worthwhile for Atty. Gen. Clarence Blackburn to conduct an investigation of the center. The mayor said that "he is not pleased that this individual is operating in the city". He further stated that he "would welcome any evidence or information that you or anyone else might have concerning any violation of any ordinance of the city."

The mayor concluded, "Neither the city, county nor state of Tennessee can act on an assumption and all legal authorities in Knoxville that I have discussed this matter with agree with this 100 percent."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)



1 THE KNOXVILLE JOURNAL  
 KNOXVILLE, TENN.

Date: 7/25/63  
 Edition: FINAL  
 Author: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Editor: GUY L. SMITH  
 Title: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL

Character: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Classification: 61-12  
 Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

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# Highlander Won't Get 'Witch Hunt'

## Blackburn Needs Proof of Violation

The attorney general's office does not plan "a witch hunt" investigation of the controversial Highlander Research and Educational Center here, Atty. Gen. Clarence Blackburn said today.

Mayor John Duncan explained yesterday that since the state issued the center's charter and only the state could revoke it, it might be worth while for Mr. Blackburn's office to conduct an investigation.

Mr. Blackburn said if any other or citizen has information of a violation of any state law he would be glad to bring it before a grand jury. He said it is not wise for a grand jury to go out on its own and investigate a matter.

### Evidence Necessary

"In the recent bootlegger liquor probe here, we called in every Tom, Dick and Harry and found that we accomplished nothing," Mr. Blackburn said. "We need officers to investigate and bring the evidence and testimony before the grand jury so they may act as a result of evidence."

Mayor Duncan also said he would welcome any information concerning any violation of any city ordinance by Highlander personnel. Mr. Blackburn said he would need valid information, and not just strictly hearsay, of a state violation to prosecute. So far he has not received any evidence, he said.

### Harris, Horton Talk

Police Chief French Harris and Sheriff Carl Ford said they spent about two hours earlier this week talking with Myles Horton, head of Highlander Center, and could find no laws violated by the school or its activities. He said no violations have been reported to the police department.

"I'm sure the FBI has had activities there under surveillance in the past and Internal Revenue agents have had to investigate the operation, as funds obtained by Mr. Horton have been tax-exempt because the school is operated as a non-profit organization," Chief Harris said.

"We will be glad to investigate any legitimate complaints at the school, but I can find nothing that would indicate any laws are being violated there. Just because an organization or person is doing something that doesn't agree with the feelings of certain other persons, doesn't mean that organization or person is violating a law. And we don't intend to make arrests unless persons are violating the law.

"Mr. Horton told me he had been an integration worker for some 30 years and that his organization had nothing to do with Communists and that he certainly was not a Communist nor was anyone that worked at the school," Chief Harris added.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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25 THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

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Date: 7/28/63  
Edition: HOME  
Author:  
Editor: LOYE W. MILLER  
Title: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL

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Classification: 61-12  
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

7/28/63

Aug 23

News 61-7511

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# Esau Jenkins

## Proud Of

### Club's PROGRESS

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 3B

The News and Courier  
Charleston, SC.

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Date: 8-19-65

Edition: Thomas R. Warin

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character: HIGHLANDER  
 OF RESEARCH CENTER  
 Classification: INFO CONCERN  
 Submitting Office: Savannah

Being Investigated

*File 3*  
*Highlander Folk School*

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SEP 24 1964

By CHARLES L. DIBBLE

Esau Jenkins shows visitors through the Progressive Club Center with pride, a pride which is best understood when the Negro leader contrasts the recently completed structure with the humble origins of the organization back in March 1948.

At that time — more than 15 years ago — many of the Negroes were still living on plantations while others were small farmers or sharecroppers, he explained.

"The only organization then was the church," the John's Island man said. "They — the small farmers — bought their seed and fertilizer a bag at a time. If they could pool their money, they could buy a lot of seed and a good bit of fertilizer and save some money.

"Often these people were in trouble with the law. If they progressed — not just financially, but also spiritually and morally and in every walk of life — they were not as likely to get in trouble with the law. And if they did get in trouble for their beliefs or what they thought, the group would be there to help them."

This was what Esau Jenkins had in mind when he called "eight or 10" of his neighbors together and formed the Progressive Club. The first meeting was devoted to examining the word "progressive" and its meaning for the John's Island community.

One of the first problems faced by the group was the need for literate and politically informed citizens. All of the members of the club either had to be registered voters or had to agree to try to register if they could. Jenkins, his speech flavored with rare traces of Gullah, pointed out: "From the start we stressed registration and voting. I knew you could get what you needed if you had the votes. The politicians — they call them the 'power structure' now — listen to the people who vote. So we taught that participation in government was essential."

#### REAL SCHOOL

At that time the Negro leader operated a bus line to Charleston for John's Island Negroes, a line that once included five buses. Seeing the need for a citizenship school, Jenkins began teaching his passengers on the bus, "a convenient place for meeting."

"One day in mid-1948," he relates, "one lady, Alice Wine, said 'Mr. Jenkins, I can't read these words, but as you teach, these people I will memorize. Not long afterwards I took them down to register, a large group of them. But I didn't know where to put her in the line."

She was so scared they would catch her not able to read. Finally we put her about in the middle."

"When the lady in front of her was taking her test, she mispronounced one of the words, I believe it was 'miscegenation.' Alice quickly corrected her, and the lady at the registration center told her, 'All right, no coaching.' I was so surprised I didn't know what to do."

"When Alice's turn came up, they ran her on through. Yet if they had shown her the word printed on a page she wouldn't have known what it was."

In the years that followed, the Progressive Club held monthly meetings — with monthly dues of 25 cents. "That's how we found the people who needed help. We arranged for them to come in two nights a week." He went on to explain that people with similar difficulties were grouped together.

Problems began to develop for Jenkins and his pupils: "So many persons needed help. I just couldn't help all of them. Well, Septima Clark (now associated with Southern Christian Leadership Conference) was a school teacher here. She asked me to go to Highlander Folk School with her. I didn't want to go — this was back about 1953 — but she said Myles Horton (director of Highlander) might be able to get me some help for the work on the island. So I finally said 'yes'."

#### VISITS HIGHLANDER

"It was a two-week United Nations workshop on school integration and human relations. On the last day — just like at the workshops we have here — they turned to us and asked: 'what are your problems?' I knew the answer to that and

when my turn came I told them. I told them we had too many people and not enough time or enough money for teachers and no place to meet.

"Myles asked me: 'Do you think you can get them to go back to school?' I told him that wasn't the problem. We had more than enough people. Myles said he would see what he could do."

"The Field Foundation gave us a grant for two years. The first year we went to Wadmalaw. Bernice Robinson was teaching on John's Island. Then we set up an adult citizenship school on Edisto. They met in a church building on Wadmalaw and in a center on Edisto. We needed a building on John's Island."

And, consequently, in the mid-fifties the Progressive Club borrowed money and bought an old school building on the island.

"After the fellows at the Progressive Club saw how the school house was working out — they saw how our boys were more out of trouble — I told



them we needed a new building. You know: a place where they could come and play basketball, table tennis, skate, and have workshops in citizenship, and bring people in from the outside. Our people might listen to someone else a lot better than they'd listen to me."

But something else was bothering the group's leader. In the eight years of the group's operation, no charter had ever been sought. So on Dec. 11, 1956, upon the club's request, the state issued a charter:

"... to form a non-profit civic, educational, and social association. The object of which shall be the creation and promotion of clean and wholesome recreation among the Negro citizenry of John's Island, Charleston County, South Carolina; to curb delinquency among its juvenile citizens and to develop high moral standards in its social activities; and to this end, and any other things to purchase property, or place of association and such other accommodations as may be necessary or convenient for the transaction of its business."

#### FEARED OPINIONS

Jenkins continued: "I was afraid that white folks would not like that." But he was surprised: "We owe a lot to many who helped us—like Mr. Vardell LeGare who was on the trustee board."

"Our schools were once five miles away and the children had to walk. In bad weather many children missed school and absences were high. We

wanted a consolidated school with classes going through the high school grades. And our children needed transportation.

"We got a high school out on John's Island even before James Island or Adams Run or anywhere else. And it was through our efforts at the Progressive Club."

Returning to the subject of a new building the active, yet humble, leader continued: "Like I said—we needed another building. We needed a store to handle expenses, a gym for the young people, and sleeping quarters so we could put up groups that came here. Our store is 30 by 50, the gym is 75 by 50, and the sleeping quarters are 10 by 72. We can sleep from 19 to 27 comfortably. That's why our workshop is limited to that many people."

#### LAST LAUGH

"One of our members," he said with a wry grin, "told me 'I hope I live long enough to see that wall go up.' And I said 'You won't live long.' Richard E. Fields helped us with \$5,000—I don't know where he got that. Myles (Horton) helped us too. We started building in October 1962 and finished it about March of last year."

Through the years the Progressive Club has remained small and today includes about 15 to 18 persons. More or less limited to a certain area of John's Island, the club is not only civic but also business-oriented. It is financed today, for the most part, through receipts from the store it operates

at the Progressive Club Center. Larger in number — about 400 — is the John's Island Improvement Committee, also a child of Esau Jenkins. Island-wide in membership, the committee limits its functions to civic activities.

A native of John's Island, Jenkins has had a successful business career. He said he attended school through the seventh grade, but — as an adult — continued his education at night classes conducted by the Rev. Giles C. Brown, a veteran John's Island clergyman.

#### MOTEL OWNER

The Negro leader used to run a small fruit store on President Street, but in more recent years he has operated the J and P Motel and Cafe on Spring Street.

His civic work has not been limited to the Progressive Club; he serves as a board member of Highlander, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and South Carolina Conference on Human Relations as well as of

the steering committee of the Charleston NAACP.

In addition he is president of the Citizens' Committee of Charleston County, formed in 1959. With a Cannon Street office, the group has concentrated

its efforts on voter registration. "You would be surprised at what the Citizens' Committee has done in the political education of our people."

Jenkins claims the group has been especially effective in combating the sale of votes: "In our monthly meetings, we tell our people to watch out for those people who come in just before election year. The reason we've been so effective in fighting people who sell votes is we're a county-wide organization — every section of the county has a branch of the Citizens' Committee."

#### OFFICIALS AID

He is proud of the group's registration record, but adds: "A lot of credit can go to the county delegation and J. Mitchell Graham (chairman of County Council). They have arranged for a voting machine to be put in our headquarters here frequently so we can teach people how to use it in voting. They have never charged us a cent. They have been very nice to us."

Married at 17, Jenkins is the father of 13 children. Seven are now living, including an Air Force captain and three teachers. He lives next door to the Progressive Club Center in a modern brick house.

And every today he envisions a larger role for the club he has nursed for so many years: "Since we started the Progressive Club on the island, you can't see our young people making trouble like they used to. They used to race up and down the road. Now they have something constructive to do. Now they come to me and want to participate in the program."

"Our big need is a full-time paid worker to have a program in the afternoon. I just don't have the money or the time. We need a supervisor to run the recreation center and program. We have the people; they're willing to follow. I believe I can find the person if I can just find the money."



**ESAU JENKINS OF JOHN'S ISLAND**

He has served as president of Citizens Committee for five years. (Staff Photo by Evans)

- Mr. Tolson.....
- Mr. Belmont.....
- Mr. Mohr.....
- Mr. Casper.....
- Mr. Callahan.....
- Mr. Conrad.....
- Mr. Felt.....
- Mr. Gale.....
- Mr. Rosen.....
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- Mr. Trotter.....
- Tele. Room.....
- Miss Holmes.....
- Miss Gandy.....

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Highlander's Failure

In an effort to throw light on the Highlander Center operations on John's Island in Charleston County, The News and Courier is publishing a series of articles by Reporter Charles L. Dibble. In these articles, participants in the Center's so-called "workshops" and related groups have been given an opportunity to describe their activities in their own terms.

Naturally, those connected with Highlander have discussed their goals in terms of education and social uplift, though the word "revolution" crops up from time to time as though it could be made respectable.

The public should understand that radicals always seek to describe their work in an acceptable manner. When Gus Hall, head of the Communist Party USA, is interviewed for the press, he doesn't talk about burying the United States. Instead, he talks about the development of the "labor movement" and "social reform."

An alert reader will understand that soft words don't tell the whole story. So it is with the Highlander participants' account of their organization.

If one examines the record of Highlander and the list of directors and sponsors, a far different picture emerges. Hard core leftists visited Highlander's former Tennessee base in a steady stream over the years. One of the visitors in recent years was Abner W. Berry of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. We don't believe he went there merely to view the mountain scenery.

... sponsors, individuals who ... deep in radical

causes during the last generation. Included are veteran members of communist front groups.

Such an organization doesn't zero in on a community unless its own special political goals are involved. Those who have defended Stalinism, praised Fidel Castro, urged U.S. disarmament, attacked the FBI or been directly associated with disciplined communists have more than routine "education" in mind when they decide to invade a community.

It is to the lasting credit of the Negro people of John's Island that the Highlander effort has made hardly a dent. Esau Jenkins and other directors of the Highlander operation no doubt would like to create a mass movement on John's Island. But the Negro people of the island know better than to put their trust in such an organization.

In their churches and other regular associations, these John's Islanders already have organizations that belong to them. They are not directed from outside this state.

As for voter registration and education, the laws of this state are fair. A Negro citizen has no more difficulty registering than a white citizen. To obtain political education, a Negro can read newspapers and magazines. He can listen to radio or watch television. He has no need for an outfit that finds John's Island a convenient political target.

Year by year, the Negro community on John's Island, as elsewhere in this state, is increasing its prosperity and well-being. With our state government dedicated to fair play, education and better employment opportunities, no Negro citizen of this state need turn to something alien like Highlander.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/1/84 BY SP8 BT/102

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 10A.

The News and Courier  
Charleston, SC.

8-20-64

[REDACTED]

Date: 8-20-64  
Edition: Morning  
Author:  
Editor: Thomas R. Waring  
Title: Editor

Character: HIGHLANDER EDUCATION & RESEARCH CENTER or INFO CONCERN.

Classification:  
Submitting Office: Savannah

Being Investigated

61-7511-A  
NOT RECORDED  
191 SEP 21 1964

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

## Accused For Many Years

# Director Denies Highlander Communistic

SOUTH CAROLINA

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last in a series of articles on the background and activities of the John's Island Progressive Club, its leaders and members.)

By CHARLES L. DIBBLE

Charges of "Communists" have been thrown at Highlander Folk School — and its heir, Highlander Research and Education Center — for many years.

But never have the anti-Highlander forces made their charges without immunity, claims Myles Horton, director of the controversial center. If such charges were made without legal immunity, Horton makes it quite clear that a libel suit would be initiated.

In a recent interview at the Progressive Club Center on John's Island where Highlander was sponsoring a voter registration workshop Horton gave his answer to the persistent attacks.

Q—For many years people have been saying that Highlander has Communistic connections. What is the basis for this?

A—Basically it's a matter of integration. As one chief of police said after talking with me, 'The trouble with Horton is he's been an integrationist for 30 years.' I think you know anybody who's an integrationist is immediately suspect. I guess you could say that I was a 'pre-mature integrationist.'

"All of our programs when first introduced were considered



MYLES HORTON  
Answers Critics

radical. We stood for democratic unions that were integrated and run by the workers themselves. Today this is not controversial. We stood for integration long ago. This too is not as hot an issue as it once was.

"I was talking to the mayor not long ago and told him how conservative I was. He was surprised. And then I told him about how many of the things that I have always stood for were now facts. And he seemed somewhat surprised at what I said, but he then agreed.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

6B

The News and  
Courier  
Charleston, SC.

~~REDACTED~~  
~~REDACTED~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/6/84 BY SP8BTO/cla  
24582

Date: 8-21-64  
Edition: Morning  
Author:  
Editor: Thomas R. Waring  
Title: Editor

HIGHLANDER  
Character: EDUCATION &  
or RESEARCH CENTER  
Classification: INFO CONCERN  
Submitting Office: Savannah

Being Investigated

TOP CLIPPING  
DATED 8/19/65  
FROM N.C. G.  
MARKED FILE AND INITIALED

REC-31  
61-7511-4

NOT RECORDED  
191 SEP 16 1964

EX-108

62 SEP 21 1964

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-11615

"Basically the proof that I am not a Communist and never have been at anytime or anywhere is this. No investigative committee, no court, or any other agency has ever come up with any evidence that I am or have been a Communist.

"Another thing—and this is important—is no one has ever accused me who didn't do it with immunity. And there is no exception to that. Marvin Griffin, who put out a smear sheet against us, a sheet that's now being used against Martin Luther King, made his charges with immunity. He could not be held responsible for libel charges. None of these people have made these charges when they could be held for libel. I asked Marvin Griffin to make his charges when he could be held for libel, and he refused. I have asked each person who has called me a Communist to make his charges outside immunity. None have agreed to this.

"On the other hand, before Sen. (James) Eastland's (Miss.) committee where I did

not have immunity — I could have been held for perjury — I, under oath, stated that I and Highlander were never Communist. But newspapers, including yours, weasel-word the thing. And I can't do anything about that. But I just ignore it. The American people aren't that gullible."

Q—But what is the basis for these charges?

A—Somebody, at some time, attended our meeting. There was a Communist in the meeting. And the charge is made. I have no way of knowing who is in the meeting. What I am concerned with is what I say and do and teach.

"I don't bother to ask you for your credentials because I just don't care. You could fake them. I can't know so I just don't bother.

"I don't know who the Communists are. And there seems to be only one way to find out that I know of—join up. But I

have never been a member, and I don't expect to join up just to find out who they are."

Q—What are your own personal political convictions?

A—I have always been a natural democrat. I supported Estes Kefauver and the liberal wing of the Democratic Party in Tennessee. I was influenced by my religious background as well as reading and studying.

Q—What political figure could you identify with the easiest?

A—None.

Q—Surely there could be someone in whom you find something that you admire politically?

A—Well, I guess you could say Jefferson. It's an inexact tie. But I admired his creativity and imagination.

Q—What do you see as the role of government?

A—This business of state's rights just doesn't hold water. It's romantic and unrealistic. Rather I accept the responsi-

bility of the federal government.

"The individual must be free. The individual must be free to be more creative. I believe federal aid to education is a freeing process in that it enables the individual to develop his full potential. I support federal aid to the arts since it would stimulate creativity.

"I am for full equality of all men and women. Everybody should have the fullest opportunity. That doesn't mean everybody will take advantage of the opportunity to the same extent—or can. But government should assume the responsibility of helping everybody achieve his fullest possible development and thereby enable them to make their maximum contribution to society.

"Why say states? Why draw the line there? Make it counties. Make it townships."

Q—Then you believe the fed-

eral government is less restrictive than the states?

A—The federal government IS less restrictive than the states. Otherwise, I would be for state's rights. I am a pragmatist at this point. I want to depend on the unit that has the power to give freedom. The federal government has this, and I am going to rest my case there.

"The government should free people rather than restrict them. I'm a good example of what I believe in. I am generally unrestricted. I am not going to advocate what would restrict me. I would be opposed to that which tries to restrict me. I support the federal government because I want a creative society. The people who are hostile to the federal government are people who don't want the federal government to interfere with them when they try to make a conformist out of everybody.

"I want to be creative. That's why I like Jefferson. This is what he stood for. This is what the Democratic Party stands for.

"When I put people on the Highlander staff, I turn them loose as long as they are democratic and respect the rights of others. I encourage them to be creative. Certainly they are within the confines of the Highlander policy, but they are allowed a maximum of flexibility within that policy. Just like in this country a maximum of flexibility is allowed within our framework.

"I wouldn't say this if I hadn't spent all my life trying to set people free. You can't build on a very narrow framework. You realize the importance of other views. I mustn't let my liberty impede someone else's liberty. Any right I have, anyone else has. I can't have it if I can't give it to you. It has to be built on a society of free men."

## Horton Explains Photograph

Myles Horton gives his version of the origin of the evidence used most frequently by persons charging that Highlander is Communistically oriented:

"The example used by most groups to say we are Communist is a photograph taken at our 25th anniversary in 1957. A man introduced himself to me as a free-lance writer from the Caribbean and showed me a letter to that effect.

"Actually he was a Communist newspaper worker from THE DAILY WORKER (the official newspaper of the Communist Party in the United States). His name was Abner Berry.

The strange thing is he left the party shortly thereafter and has been unheard of ever since. Strange conduct after being a member of the party for years. It suggests to me that he was an agent of Marvin Griffin (former governor of Georgia).

"It was at our 25th anniversary meeting. A large number of people turned out. Sandy (A.A.) Liveright (who attended the John's Island workshop) and Joe (J. Arthur) Brown (president of the South Carolina NAACP) were also there.

"Interesting is the fact that Abner Berry is squatting down in the picture. The photographer was Ed Friend who said he was a commercial photographer. I asked him to take some pictures for publicity purposes and so forth.

"But he waited and waited and waited. Then Berry came along. There weren't any chairs left so he squatted down in the front. "It was obvious that the photographer had been waiting for him. They were in cahoots — a first time I ever saw them, and they were together."





#### USED AGAINST HIGHLANDER

Georgia Commission on Education's circular said: "Pictured (foreground), (1) Martin Luther King of the Montgomery boycott and the Birmingham riots, backed up by the Kennedys; (2) Abner W. Berry of the Central Committee of the Communist Party; (3) Aubrey Williams, president of the Southern Conference Education Fund, Inc, the transmission belt in the South for the Communist Party; (4) Myles Horton, director of Highlander Folk School for Communist Training, Monteagle, Tenn. These 'four horsemen' of racial agitation have brought tension, disturbance, strife and violence in their advancement of the Communist doctrine of 'racial nationalism.'"

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**Civil Rights  
Official to  
Speak Here**

Conrad Browne, 1943 graduate of Kalamazoo College and associate director of the Highlander Education and Research Center in Knoxville, Tenn., will speak here Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Knoxville center is a non-profit training school for civil rights workers, and target of criticism by segregationist forces in the South.

Browne will address a public meeting at the Friends' Meeting House, 508 Denner, at 8 Tuesday night. Sponsor of the meeting is Concern, an international relations discussion group interested in civil rights.

At 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Browne will speak at a board meeting of the Council on Human Relations n Friends' Meeting House.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

15 Kalamazoo Gazette  
Kalamazoo, Mich.

*[Redacted]*  
*[Redacted]*

*File 5*

*[Redacted]*

Date: 9/21/64  
Edition: Home  
Author:  
Editor: Daniel M. Ryan  
Title: CONRAD BROWNE;  
HIGHLANDER EDUCATION  
AND RESEARCH CENTER  
Character:  
or  
Classification: 100  
Submitting Office: Detroit  
 Being Investigated

REC-47 61-7511-A  
NOT RECORDED  
OCT 8 1964

EX-103

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/6/84 BY SP8 BTJ/aw  
24582

OCT 23 1964

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

# Highlander School Set To Open Here

Charleston will be headquarters for an extensive three-month voter education workshop series sponsored by the Highlander Research and Education Center this summer.

Announcement of the center here was announced yesterday by Myles F. Horton, director of Highlander.

The announcement came at the close of a weekend meeting of the 25-member Highlander board of directors at the center in Knoxville, Tenn.

Horton said about 500 persons from communities throughout the South will attend the sessions here and return home to work in voter education projects.

### CONSULTANTS

At least 45 special consultants from such organizations as the NAACP, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and the Conference of Federated Organizations (COFO) participated in workshops during the past 11 months, Horton said.

Representatives from these and other organizations will serve as consultants in the workshops here, a Highlander official said.

The Rev. C. Conrad Browne,

assistant director of the Highlander Center, said last night voter registration has been "effectively organized" in Charleston and that workers from other southern states would come here to study methods used. "In order to be able to return home with new ideas."

Mr. Browne stressed the contrast between this summer's program and that conducted last summer in Alabama and Mississippi when outside students invaded those states to aid in voter registration drives.

### GOING THING

Charleston was chosen for this summer's workshop because, said Mr. Browne, "Esau Jenkins' voter registration program has developed into a going thing and that grew out of the Highlander Research Center some year ago."

He emphasized the workshops here will be held to educate registered voters in such areas as how to choose candidates, studying issues in an election and the proper exercise of rights and responsibilities as registered voters.

Mr. Browne ruled out the possibility of Highlander conducting voter registration drives here this summer.

"Our charter allows us to work with education programs only. We don't sponsor any action programs of any type," he said.

He said the workshops would be coordinated here by Esau Jenkins.

During the first week of the sessions scheduled to begin in July, activities will be held at the Progressive Club Center on John's Island, Mr. Browne said. In following weeks, workshops will be held throughout the county.

Horton said a recruiting program for the sessions here would not be necessary.

### WIDELY KNOWN

"We are so widely known in the South that all we have to do is let it be known we are having workshops and we get more applications than we can handle," he said.

Horton said word about the workshops is spread through churches, civil rights organizations and by former students who have worked in the civil rights movement.

A report on Highlander activities for an 11-month period

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page #1 B

NEWS AND COURIER

CHARLESTON

SOUTH CAROLINA

Date: 5/16/65  
 Edition: Morning  
 Author: Unknown  
 Editor: THOMAS R. WARING  
 Title: **HIGHLANDER SCHOOL SET TO OPEN HERE**  
 Character:  
 or  
 Classification:  
 Submitting Office: SV.

*Highlander Folk School July 1965*

*REC*

*61-7511-6A*

NOT RECORDED  
46 JUN 7 1965

70 JUN 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/6/84 BY SP8 BTJ/bk  
245582

ending yesterday showed the center conducted 31 workshops in which there were 2,481 participants. Horton said an "overwhelming majority" of the workshops dealt with voter registration and education.

Yesterday's announcement was the third in less than one month to focus major attention in voter activity in South Carolina.

James Farmer, national director of the Congress of Racial equality (CORE) launched a statewide voter registration campaign from Columbia on May 2. CORE plans to use a 100-man task force to register Negroes in the state.

#### CORE REJECTED

CORE's entry into the state's voter registration picture was rejected by the Rev. I. DeQuincy Newman, field secretary of the South Carolina NAACP.

Mr. Newman has been quoted as saying South Carolina Negroes need no outside help in voter registration.

Evidence of disagreement between South Carolina NAACP officials and the national office became apparent earlier this month however, with the announcement that about 1,200 volunteers would enter Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina to work in voter registration projects this summer.

JUN 2 1965

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Wick \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Sullivan 7
- Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
 School

Highlander *Folk*  
 Probe Voted

asa

A House resolution calling for a second legislative investigation of Knoxville's Highlander Research Center was approved by the Senate yesterday.

The upper chamber approved the probe by a 24-3 vote with a minimum of debate. The investigation will be launched to determine if there is "probable cause" to believe Highlander is subversive.

THE CENTER was investigated by the legislature in 1959 when it was located at Mont-eagle and called the Highlander Folk School.

The center's state charter was finally revoked on grounds that beer was sold illegally. The name was changed when the center moved to Knoxville and a new charter was obtained.

Sen. Fred Berry, R-Knoxville, sponsor of the resolution, urged its passage, saying "the Senate needs to stand up and be counted on this matter."

"If what we hear about the school is true, we should do something about it," he said. "If not, it should be erased."

EARLIER SEN. Jerry Agee, D-Nashville, had read from what he said was a 1957 Congressional hearing about a

"Communist movement in the Midsouth."

Agee said that some people associated with Highlander were mentioned in the report as "possible Communists."

Many legislators have warned that the investigation will be a "witch-hunt," unconstitutional, and "damaging to the prestige of the legislature."

EARLIER THIS week the American Civil Liberties Union released a statement nationwide saying that such an investigation "would seriously impair freedom of speech and association."

"Such an inquiry would have a national impact by helping to revive the spirit of McCarthyism in other states," the statement said.

"This kind of legislative investigation committee smacks of the McCarthy era when such committees under the guise of investigation engaged in witch hunts in violation of academic freedom, free speech and association guarantees of the First Amendment."

The Highlander center has been the target of much criticism in Tennessee for its reputation as a training center for civil rights workers.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 12

NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN.

61-7511-

Date: 5-24-67  
 Edition:  
 Author:  
 Editor: JOHN SEIGENTHALEI  
 Title:

Character:  
 or  
 Classification: 100-92  
 Submitting Office: MEMPHIS  
 Being Investigated

61-7511-A-  
 NOT RECORDED  
 176 JUN 14 1967

2 JUN 1 1967

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 DATE 3/6/84 BY SP8 BTG/OK  
 245532

Highlander Folk  
School

Section 10 of 11 Sections

61-7511

10

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 1/20/58

FROM : SAC, KNOXVILLE (105-0A) (61-12)

SUBJECT:

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL,  
MONTEAGLE, TENN. - VICTIM  
CR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/6/84 BY SP8 BTJ/CL  
241532

On 1/18/58

[redacted], advised SA [redacted] that on 1/9/58 two full cases and one partial case of dynamite had been stolen from the County Rock Quarry located in the Penile Community of Franklin County, Tenn. He said that his investigation had identified [redacted]

subjects, and that these three had been charged with house-breaking and larceny and possession of dynamite. They were indicted by a special session of the Franklin County Grand Jury on 1/15/58, and are to be tried in February, 1958.

[redacted] reportedly had also read of the fact in newspapers that several Negroes were at the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tenn., where they were mixed with whites, and in conversation with other two subjects wondered why this had not been given considerable publicity.

[redacted] decided to obtain some dynamite and blow up the Highlander Folk School because of the mixing of whites and Negroes at the school. The dynamite was found packed in a ten gallon milk can, which had been found before it could be used.

- 3 - Bureau
  - 1 - Knoxville (105-0A)
  - 1 - Knoxville (61-12)
- bgc

SE 2

44-12743-1

RECORDED - 23

15 JAN 22 1958

EX-117

[redacted signature]

37 1279

KX 105-0a, 61-12

b7c  
67D  
[REDACTED]

For information of the Bureau, the only Negroes in Grundy County are those who stay at the Highlander Folk School. Inasmuch as it appears that this could be a possible source of racial trouble, this matter is being reported to the Bureau for information.



XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) \_\_\_\_\_ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies), \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

5 Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); U.S. ARMY INTELLIGENCE as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
44-12743-2

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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Highlander Folk  
School

Section 11 of 11 sections

61-7511

11-25

C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 16 1959

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

~~REDACTED~~  
b7c

URGENT 3-16-59 11-29AM JB  
TO DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, KNOXVILLE  
FROM SAC, MEMPHIS 2P

UNSUB, BOMB THREAT UNSPECIFIED SCHOOL RECEIVED BY ~~REDACTED~~

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL, MONTEAGLE, TENN., MARCH TWELVE, FIFTYNINE  
BOMBING MATTERS. ~~REDACTED~~ BY LETTER DATED MARCH THIRTEEN

LAST ADDRESSED TO FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U. S. COURTHOUSE,  
NASHVILLE, TENN., RECEIVED THIS DATE, ADVISED THAT HE RECEIVED  
ANONYMOUS PHONE CALL EIGHT-THIRTY PM, MARCH TWELVE LAST. UNSUB  
DESCRIBED AS MALE WITH ROUGH AND MAD VOICE, SAID HE WAS ON HIS  
WAY TO GEORGIA FROM NASHVILLE. SAID QUOTE ~~REDACTED~~ IS NOT WITH  
US. HE IS A COWARD. UNQUOTE. UNSUB THEN SAID SOMETHING ELSE  
ABOUT NASHVILLE WHICH ~~REDACTED~~ DID NOT UNDERSTAND AND THEN SAID  
QUOTE, WHEN I COME BACK FROM GEORGIA IT WILL BE MORNING AND WE  
WILL GET RID OF THE SCHOOL, BLOW IT OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

~~REDACTED~~ ADVISED THAT HE HAD LEARNED THERE WERE BUSES FROM BOTH  
MEMPHIS AND NASHVILLE SCHEDULED TO STOP OVER IN MONTEAGLE AT ABOUT  
THE TIME THE CALL WAS RECEIVED. A COPY OF THIS LETTER DESIGNATED  
BY HIM QUOTE TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. UNQUOTE.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/6/84 BY SP8BTJ/cj

Mr. Rosen

62 MAR 20 1959

23 MAR 17 1959

5-1  
b7c  
X  
8

b7c

b7c

15A  
25/57-142-1  
54532

PAGE TWO..

*b7c* [REDACTED] TENN. BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION, WAS *b7c*  
ADVISED EIGHT FORTY AM TODAY. HE ADVISED HIS OFFICE CLOSED  
DUE TO STATE HOLIDAY AND HE DOES NOT KNOW IF COPY OF LETTER  
*b7c* RECEIVED. [REDACTED] STATES AS NO STATE LAW IN EFFECT RE BOMB *b7c*  
THREATS HE PLANS NO IMMEDIATE ACTION. CIC, NASHVILLE, TENN.,  
ADVISED NINE AM, INSTANT DATE. LETTERHEAD MEMO FOLLOWS.  
ATLANTA ADVISED BY MAIL.

END AND ACK PLS..

WA 12-33 PM OK FBI WA DM

KY OK FBI KX AJG

TU DISC

cc: Mr. [REDACTED]

*b7c*

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (61-7511)

DATE: 3-16-59

FROM : SAC, Memphis (61-34)

SUBJECT: UNSUB; Bomb Threat, Unspecified School,  
Received by ██████████ Highlander Folk  
School, Monteagle, Tennessee, 3-12-59  
BOMBING MATTERS

*b7c*  
*d*

Remytel 3-16-59.

Enclosed herewith is letterhead memorandum concerning instant bomb threat.

- 2 - Bureau (Encls. 8)
- 1 - Atlanta (Encl. 1)
- 1 - Knoxville (Encl. 1)
- 1 - Memphis

BN

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/6/84 BY SP8 BTG/oa

245502

*1cc sent returned 5738 JK:jk*  
ENCLOSURE

EX-132

REC-93

157-42-2

17 MAR 19 1959

FBI

57 MAR 25 1959

MAR 22 1959

*mc*  
*SA*

EX-132

*[Redacted]*  
*[Redacted]*

*3/20/59*  
*6-21 021*  
*OSI. White*  
*JK:jk*



United States Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Memphis, Tennessee  
March 16, 1959

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
BOMB THREAT, UNSPECIFIED SCHOOL,  
RECEIVED BY [REDACTED] HIGHLANDER  
FOLK SCHOOL, MONTEAGLE, TENN., 3/12/59

b7c

On March 16, 1959, the following letter was received at the Nashville Resident Agents' Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, it was typed on the letterhead stationery of the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee.

"March 13, 1959"

"Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Courthouse  
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Sir:

I wish to report an anonymous telephone call made to me around 8:30 p.m., March 12. A man's voice, rough and mad, said he was on his way to Georgia and that he had been in Nashville and [REDACTED] is not with us. He is a coward.' He said something else about Nashville which I did not understand, and then said, 'When I come back from Georgia it will be morning and we will get rid of the school. Blow it off the face of the earth.'

b7c

This morning I inquired at the Monteagle Bus Station and was told that both a Memphis and a Nashville bus were scheduled for a stopover at Monteagle around the time the call was made.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ [REDACTED]

b7c

"cc: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation"

On March 16, 1959, at 8:40 a.m., [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification, Nashville,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/6/84 BY SP8 BTG/oa  
24633

157-42-2  
ENCLOSURE

Tennessee, advised Special Agent [REDACTED] that his office was closed because of a State holiday and further that he could take no immediate action as there is no present State law relating to threats of bombings. [REDACTED] stated that while it appeared that [REDACTED] intended a copy of his letter to go to [REDACTED] a State organization, it may have been missent because of the address, stating there is a private detective agency in Nashville, Tennessee using the name Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

On March 16, 1959, at 9 a.m., [REDACTED] 111th CIC Detachment, Nashville, Tennessee, was advised by Special Agent [REDACTED] of the threat.

The foregoing is being submitted for your information only and is not to be distributed outside your agency.

FBI

Date: 9/6/63

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (157-36B)

UNKNOWN SUBJECT; ANONYMOUS  
TELEPHONE CALL TO [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] HIGHLANDER RESEARCH  
AND EDUCATION CENTER, KNOXVILLE,  
TENNESSEE, SEPTEMBER 6, 1963  
RACIAL MATTERS, BOMB THREAT

Enclosed herewith are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning captioned matter.

Copies have been disseminated to local intelligence agencies.

No investigation being conducted re bomb threat UACB.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/6/84 BY SP8 BTG/oa

C.C. Wick

REC-117

157-42-3

SEP 9 1963

- 3 - Bureau (Encl. -8)
  - 1 - Knoxville
- /bgc  
(4)

ENCLOSURE

Agency G-2, ONI, CSI, CRD

Date Forw. SEP 11 1963

How Forw. [Handwritten]

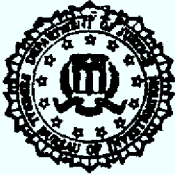
By R.M. [Handwritten]

149  
58 SEP 20 1963

266 3' [Handwritten] Unit  
2 cc's destroyed

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M. Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Knoxville, Tennessee  
September 6, 1963

UNKNOWN SUBJECT; ANONYMOUS  
TELEPHONE CALL TO [REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] HIGHLANDER RESEARCH  
AND EDUCATION CENTER, KNOXVILLE,  
TENNESSEE, SEPTEMBER 6, 1963  
RACIAL MATTERS - BOMB THREAT

At 4:36 PM, September 6, 1963, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] advised that at approximately 3:56 PM,  
September 6, 1963, [REDACTED] Highlander  
Research and Education Center, Riverside Drive, Knoxville, Tenn.,  
had called [REDACTED] and advised that he had just re-  
ceived an anonymous telephone call from an individual who stated  
that at 3:56 PM, September 6, 1963, a bomb would explode at his  
institution. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] advised that he  
considered this a hoax call and expected no development inasmuch  
as it was even then at the time of his call 3:56 PM. He remarked  
that he was only calling [REDACTED] to get  
the matter on record.

At 4:40 PM, on September 6, 1963, the above information  
was furnished to Agent [REDACTED] ICG.

This document contains neither recommendations nor  
conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is  
loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be dis-  
tributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/6/84 BY SP8 BTG/aw  
245582

# CITIZENS IRRED AST.E.R.A. AIDS RADICAL GROUP

Armed by Report Grant  
\$7,000 Allocated to High-  
Level School

## LAY PLAN FOR PROTEC

School Attendance Day, May  
for 'Go-Operative'—But  
See Strongly Away

BY W. CLAUDE FURBER,  
Staff Correspondent

WYCK OFFICE, June 14—  
The members of the Citizens  
Irred Ast. E. R. A. group  
which are active in the  
school attendance day, were  
today in session at the  
Wyck office, 125 West  
42d St., to discuss the  
plan for the school atten-

dance day. The group, which  
is known as the "Go-Operative"  
group, is a radical group  
which is active in the  
school attendance day. The  
group is active in the  
school attendance day, and  
is known as the "Go-Operative"  
group.

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*Mary Horton*