

LEGION SPONSORS RAVINIA ARTICLE

Committee Requests Reprinting of Article by Mrs. Albert W. Dillon

Article by the Americanism committee of the American Legion. Dear Readers:

Professional Pacifist, radical agitators and Communistic forces, not having at heart the future welfare of the United States have combined in a concerted effort to break down the Naturalization laws, abolish means of National Defense and bring about social disorders where every conscience is a law unto itself.

They have hurled a challenge to every Liberty loving, law abiding citizen and believer in ethical religion as they work by day and by night in the furtherance of schemes to weaken and destroy a National spirit in America.

This challenge can not pass unanswered. The patriotic citizenship must arouse itself to meet this organized campaign which is threatening the security of our general welfare. The call of duty to the American Legion is clear.

It is the desire of the Americanism committee of the American Legion through its columns in the local newspapers to pass on to the people such articles as come to their attention regarding subversive speakers and unpatriotic meetings along the north shore.

Most of these we believe are sponsored by a minority group at the expense of the majority whom we feel are 100 per cent Americans, but unaware of the menace which threatens our country. We believe in the intelligence of our people. Our program is therefore an educational one rather than militant. At the request of many friends in Highland Park who desire knowledge of what has been transpiring in our midst, we publish the article "Red Ravinia" by Mrs. Albert W. Dilling. The article is self explanatory.

We trust that our friends in Ravinia will accept it in the light in which it is presented, and that rather than criticize the writer for the name "Red Ravinia" they will investigate the facts and take such action as will clear our fair community of such a stigma.

Dumaresq Spencer Post No. 145
AMERICANISM COMMITTEE,
of the American Legion
Dept. of Illinois.

By P. E. Cole, Chairman.

"RED RAVINIA"

Several years ago, because of the activities of a certain "Red" clique, Ravinia acquired the nickname "Red Ravinia" in neighboring communities.

Carl Haessler spoke at the Ravinia Woman's club April 13 in favor of Communism and violent Red revolution in America. His audience was composed of well-dressed women who enjoy the comfortable homes, great new inventions, and educational benefits of church and school which the American "capitalistic" system has fostered as never before in the world's history. To be sure, Haessler is a past master at the art of revolutionary propa-

ganda. His own account of how he and a few others incited the strike of 3,200 fellow prisoners in Leavenworth penitentiary demonstrates practical ability which no doubt helped him to secure his present position as Chicago head of the Communist propagandist news-gathering agency, The Federated Press.

In appearance, Haessler is harmless, even effeminate, and before the Woman's club he employed to perfection the manner of a sweet startled deer beseeching its captors for mercy, which is so appealing to the mother instinct. He told the ladies he wanted to avoid offending anyone, and apologetically asked that his propaganda be regarded as an academic question (not a question of life and death to all of us). By all the subtle arts of indirection and innuendo he proposed a revolution of terror and confiscation as smoothly as though he were offering his listeners a charming prospect of a chocolate cream, and most of them seemed to accept it as such.

Haessler's introductory remarks were that, while he was not a member of the club (laughter), he felt that he had taken part in its life through his wife; who had acted as program chairman, secretary of the board, etc., for over ten years. After hearing this, I could well understand the difficulty patriotic citizens and club members have had in trying to combat "Red" influence in Ravinia, where the Haesslers live.

Briefly, his arguments were for the confiscation of all private wealth and property, and for putting these under state control (control by state political machines being purer, supposedly, than private control). He said that while the Socialist and Communist systems were interchangeable, Socialists think they can win by peaceable means, while "history tells Communists" that violence is necessary, and that his sympathies were with Communism. He said Communism is inevitable and we had only to choose between "dragging along" for several generations or "having it over with" by quick, violent revolution. He deceptively compared this proposed revolution with our own Revolutionary war for independence (as Communists always do). He nonchalantly observed that while revolutions undoubtedly "pull down houses," many of these need pulling down anyway, and while they undoubtedly kill people, all of these would have to die later anyway, so that, after a few generations this violence becomes immaterial. He omitted to say that property destruction and death would be very material to this generation. However, as Haessler's appearance is harmless and appealing, the ladies applauded him enthusiastically; they had "listened," evidently, to his appearance.

It is interesting to note in Communist literature that criminal violence is always promoted and excused under a cloak of supposed martyrdom. Negroes are urged to fight their white "oppressors," who actually have freed them and given them better jobs and opportunities than exist in Africa. Mooney is the Anarchist convicted of bombing the 1917 Preparedness Day Parade at San Francisco, when many were killed and injured. To the Communists, Mooney is "framed" by his

"capitalistic oppressors," and freeing him is a popular Communist cause. Freeing the Scottsboro negroes convicted of raping two white girls is another Communist enthusiasm. Patriotic citizens of Ravinia speak with despair and indignation of their futile efforts to combat "Red" influences in Ravinia and of the persistence required to keep the United States flag displayed there. As soon as a "Ravinia Red" is reproached for disloyalty to America, he or she at once assumes the martyr role, giving the role of "oppressor" to the patriotic person, who is then referred to slightly as a "hundred-per-center," "a narrow-minded D. A. R.," or a "super patriot." To praise the American Legion in "Red Ravinia" society circles, would be the social faux pas inexcusable.

No one in Ravinia has ever accused Brent Dow Allinson of being a "super patriot." He is the infamous slacker who refused to serve his country in the World war and, like Haessler, is a penitentiary alumnus. His mother is an active member of the Ravinia Woman's club.

Haessler served twenty-six months in Leavenworth and Alcatraz prisons (between June, 1918, and August, 1920), for refusal to serve the United States during the World war. His reasons for refusing to serve, and his activities while confined in prison, are clearly set forth in his article describing the strike incited by the "political prisoners" of whom

he was one. This article appeared in the Communist "Labor Defender" (issue of January, 1927), and is entitled "The Fort Leavenworth General Strike of Prisoners—an experiment in the radical guidance of mass discontent." It says in part: "Not every convict took part in the general strike that brought the War Department of the strongest nation on earth to its knees. But those who scabbed will remember the surging of overwhelming cooperative action that all but engulfed them." (He tells how the 500 out of the 3,700 prisoners who did not join were afraid to return to their cells for fear of the strikers.) "How was this feeling brought about? It is an interesting experiment in the solidarity of mobilizing and directing mass discontent. A small but highly conscious body of prisoners led the great majority almost without the knowledge of anybody but the leaders and their opponents, the military command of the prison. This small body of leaders were the political objectors to the Wilson war . . . Their purpose was general revolutionary propaganda, and, if the occasion proved favorable, revolutionary action. . . The political as a rule had no conscience so far as means of furthering their main purpose was concerned. They deemed Socialism, or Communism, as many of them began to call it after the Russian revolution, as more important than any specially ordained way of achieving it . . . Where the commandant used spies and propaganda the politicals did likewise with better effect. In a few months they had the roughneck ordinary military convict tattooing red flags instead of the national emblem on their arms and chests. In some weeks more they had them rejecting every chance to shorten their terms by reinstatement with the col-

ors." (He describes the riots in which arms were broken, teeth knocked out, and prisoners "bruised to a jelly") "That night the commandant surrendered. The men then returned to work. Their strike had been successful beyond their dreams. . . The political prisoners had not produced the mob but they had supplied the direction for it. The two factors cooperated in a neat little revolutionary experiment behind the walls and under the guns of Fort Leavenworth. When the tide of events produces similar conditions on a national scale, it may be that men of national caliber will be ready to carry out a similar experiment on national and international lines."

In 1922, Haessler became managing editor of the Federated Press, which is described in the U. S. Government Fish committee report on Communism (2290). The Communist party of America considers the Federated Press its own press service organization, and upwards of 200 papers in the Soviet Union Telegraph Agency. Louis P. Lochner is European director and has an office in Berlin where he is in close touch with the International Propaganda Bureau of the Communist Internationale of Moscow.

Haessler, while lecturing August 12, 1926, is said to have referred to his sister Gertrude as being then in Moscow studying "Journalism." Gertrude Haessler writes not only for Communist papers but also for the secret Communist "Party Organizer." She is an authority on publications of "shop nuclei," or revolutionary units in shops. The April, 1932, issue of that startling Communist paper, the "Labor Defender," bears an article by her entitled "In Blue Blood Kentucky." In it, she ridicules the "capitalistic" Lindberghs and their lost baby, as Communist papers have been doing ever since the kidnaping. She upholds Mooney and the convicted Scottsboro negro rapists and says: "Lindbergh shaking hands with the czars of the underworld in the frantic effort to get back his 'chubby, golden-haired son' doesn't give a damn for the nine terrified little dark skinned Scottsboro lads . . . Lindbergh, the ideal of American boyhood, never made a move to see that Mother Mooney got her son back during the entire fifteen years of his legal kidnaping."

After Haessler's talk at the Ravinia Woman's club, one of the "Red Ravinians" said to a friend of mine who has the honor, which I have not, of being a D. A. R. member; "I don't understand you D. A. R.'s at all. You are all for the old 1776 Revolution but against this new revolution." Communists delight in making it appear that our Revolutionary war for independence and the second Russian, or Bolshevik, revolution, as well as the proposed international "Red" revolution, are all similar. They are not similar. Our Revolutionary war of 1776 was to establish only the right of this nation to govern itself. The first Russian revolution which overthrew the Czar in February, 1917, formed the Kerensky government, patterned somewhat after our own, and was a revolution concerning only Russia. The U. S. was the first nation to officially recognize

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