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## What Should Our Students Know and Understand About the Communist System?

Lewis F. Powell Jr.

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Chicago, April 26, 1960  
National School Boards  
Association Meeting

NOTES ON PANEL PROGRAM

Subject: "What Should Our Students Know and  
Understand About the Communist  
System?"

Panelists: Lewis F. Powell, Jr., Chairman of  
the Panel

Dr. Gerald H. Read, Professor of  
Education, Kent State  
University

Dr. Martin Essex, Superintendent of  
Schools, Akron, Ohio

Clifford Thompson, Rhodes Scholar and  
student authority on Communism

Note As To Procedure:

I will introduce the panelists, state  
the subject, and make a brief statement as to the  
procedure. This will include an opening statement  
by Dr. Read, to be followed by comments of each of  
the panelists on Dr. Read's statement. There will  
then be a general panel discussion, with questions  
from the audience.

My Statement:

At some time during the proceeding, pos-  
sibly in a summing up at the end, I will include  
among other things the substance of the following  
statement and recommendation.

NOTES ON THINGS OUR STUDENTS  
SHOULD KNOW ABOUT COMMUNISM

1. History of Communism and its Leaders. Karl Marx, Lenin, Stalin and Khrushchev -- all a fairly consistent pattern. Myth that Marx was a humanitarian. The fact is that Marx was one of the bitterest and most inhuman of all philosophers. He showed no trace of compassion for anyone; viciously attacked many people who befriended him; and actually had contempt for most of the working class for whom he professed such concern. Like his disciples, Marx had a dictatorship complex and was a totalitarian.

2. Place of the "Party". The ruling apparatus is the Party -- in Russia, only 3 1/2% of the population. Although Communist leaders profess their brotherhood with the workers and peasants, they would not dream of admitting a majority of them into the Party.

3. The Reactionary Character of the Bolshevik Revolution. Few people remember that the Bolshevik Revolution overthrew the Kerensky government, which was a moderately liberal socialist type of regime. The Communist did not, as they claim, overthrow the corrupt Czarist regime.



4. War (both hot and cold) is Still a Basic Communist Policy. In these days of smiles from Khrushchev, and of barnstorming tours and summit meetings, many forget that fundamental Communist doctrine, never repudiated, includes war as a legitimate and probably necessary instrument of policy. Lenin laid down the basic doctrine in 1919, which has been reaffirmed many times by all Soviet leaders, namely:

"There are wars and wars. We condemn imperialistic war, but we do not reject war in general . . . of course not. We are living not merely in a state, but in a system of states, and the existence of the Soviet Republic side by side with the imperialistic states for a long time is unthinkable. One or the other must triumph in the end. And before that end supervenes, a series of frightful collisions between the Soviet Republic and the bourgeois states will be inevitable."

As recently as February 1956, the very year in which Khrushchev launched his peace campaign before the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party, he made it perfectly clear that force would be used if necessary to fulfill Communism's "historic mission." Khrushchev said:

"There is no doubt that in a number of capitalistic countries the violent overthrow of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie . . . is inevitable . . . Lenin teaches us that the ruling classes will not surrender their power voluntarily."

Khrushchev then went on to say that the extent to which violence is necessary will "depend on the resistance of the



exploiters." In other words, there will be peace if -- but only if -- the free world surrenders without resistance.

As the Overstreets pointed out in their book, "What We Must Know About Communism," international Communism "declared war" on all capitalistic countries many years ago, and this war has been in progress at all times since -- although varying in its form and complexion from time to time. We choose to call it the "cold war", whereas the Communist consider it total war to be waged by whatever means may seem most effective at the time.

6.. Strategy of Conspiracy. It is difficult for the western mind to comprehend the Communist basic strategy of conspiracy, which does not accept any of the moral standards or values familiar to western civilization. The end justifies the means, and the means may include lying, cheating, torture and murder -- all deemed by the Soviets to be perfectly legitimate.

7. Focal Groups Subjected to Communist Infiltration. Lenin pointed out that three groups require special attention from the Communists: (i) the army, (ii) the workers and their union organizations, and (iii) the intellectuals. Lenin taught that for revolution to be successful these three

three groups must be infiltrated, propagandized and used, sometimes consciously, but more often unconsciously, to promote Communist ends. The decade of the 1930s was one in which Communism successfully "infiltrated" the thinking of many intellectuals in this country.

8. The Professed Objectives of the Revolution Have Not and Cannot be Attained by Communism.

(a). The basic Marxian slogan for Communism was:

"From each according to his ability, and to each according to his needs."

Even the Communist admit today (in the Soviet Constitution, for example) that at this "stage" in the revolution, this slogan has had to be modified to read:

"From each according to his ability, and to each according to his contribution."

(b). Another objective of Communism is a "classless society", and yet there is a new "aristocracy" in every Communist country which, in terms of power and privilege, exceeds any ruling class known to history. This was the theme of the interesting book, smuggled out of Yugoslavia by Milovan Djilas (now in jail), who said:

"This is a class (the Communist Party ruling class) whose power over men is the most complete known in history. . . . When the new class leaves the historical



scene there will be less sorrow over its passing than there has been for any other class before it. Smothering everything except what suited its ego, it has condemned itself to failure and shameful ruin."

(c). Another fiction of Communist philosophy and propaganda is that "the workers own all of the means of production." This is the sheerest nonsense, as no worker owns anything. The means of production are, of course, owned and controlled only by the Party apparatus -- which owns and controls everything. The best evidence of what a worker really owns lies, perhaps, in the fact that he does not even have a lease on the one room apartment which he occupies. He merely has a permit from the government -- revocable at will.

9. Strange New Force of Terrifying Magnitude. By far the most important thing for all Americans to realize is that international Communism is a strange new force which has entered and corrupted our world beyond anything else ever known to history.

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