

# 12 HELD AS INQUIRY ON LEFTISTS ENDS

## 2 Witnesses Dragged Off— Rep. Pool Pleased at Data on 'Hard-Core' Reds

By **JOHN HERBERS**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19 — The House Committee on Un-American Activities ended its raucous inquiry into the New Left today after two witnesses had been dragged from the stand and a dozen other persons had been ejected and arrested for creating disturbances.

Representative Joe R. Pool, Democrat of Texas, announced at noon that the investigative stage of the hearings had ended. He said the committee had all the information it needed on how "revolutionary hard-core Communists" in America had aided the Vietcong.

Jerry Rubin, a young Socialist in Revolutionary War uniform who was one of two uncalled witnesses, objected so persistently at not being called that he, too, was hustled from the room.

### Hostile Start and End.

Thus the hearings ended as they began on Tuesday—in an atmosphere of hostility. During the four days of proceedings, at least 50 persons were arrested for disorderly conduct, and there were frequent outbursts involving hissing, shoving and insults shouted at the committee.

The clamor and violence almost obscured the announced purpose of the hearings, which was to gather information for shaping legislation to make it a felony for Americans to aid persons engaged in hostilities against the United States.

Mr. Pool, acting chairman of the committee, said that such legislation would be reported to the House next week, and he predicted that both the House and Senate would approve it.

The nature of the hearings, however, renewed demands by some House members that the committee be restrained, and they predicted that Congress would not accept any bill based on the hearings.

This week's hearings differed from previous committee inquiries in that several witnesses not only admitted that they were Communists but also bragged about their party membership and openly attacked the American Government.

The pattern in the past had been for accused Communists to invoke their constitutional right against self-incrimination and refuse to answer questions about their beliefs and affiliations.

The 10 youths of the New Left

**Continued on Page 2, Column 3**

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# Disorders Mark the End of House Committee Inquiry



United Press International Telephoto

Guards remove young woman from hearing room of House Committee on Un-American Activities. She and several others shouted "murderer" at Brig. Gen., James D. Hittle, retired, a witness at the hearings. Twelve were arrested in yesterday's stormy session.

## House Inquiry on Leftists Ends; 2 Dragged From Witness Chair

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

who appeared this week used the hearings as their first national forum to express their views.

The three witnesses who appeared today bristled with hostility and invective. Steven Cherkoss of Berkeley, Calif., a clean-shaven young man in a sports coat, said he was eager to testify because "I'm not going to let you guys get off the hook."

He called the committee "coward yellow-bellied racists," in reply to the chairman, Edwin E. Willis' Democrat of Louisiana, who had referred to those who help the Vietcong as "yellow-bellied cowards."

When Mr. Cherkoss was sworn in he held up his right hand made into a fist except for his middle finger, which remained erect. Everyone pretended not to notice.

### Predicts Government's End

Mr. Cherkoss said he was a West Coast organizer for the Progressive Labor party, which had been identified by friendly witnesses as an organization oriented to Communist China.

Mr. Cherkoss insisted on reading a long statement in which he said, "We are Communists and we are proud of it" and "Your Government's days are numbered."

Mr. Pool asked Mr. Cherkoss if he advocated overthrow of the Government by violence.

"That sounds like a loaded question," Mr. Cherkoss replied. "The American people are going to take power however they can. No ruling class has ever surrendered power voluntarily... The people will take power as they deem necessary."

When Mr. Cherkoss was excused he refused to leave the table and he was carried away shouting, "The blood of the Vietnamese is on the American Government."

Steven C. Hamilton, 22 years old, said he was chairman of the Progressive Labor party at Berkeley, had been president of the May 2d Movement, a defunct group identified with the party, and had worked in the Medical Aid Committee for Vietnam.

### Proud of War Role

"I am proud to say that I and others collected money for the victims of the United States Government in National Liberation Front areas [in Vietnam]," Mr. Hamilton said.

The committee entered as evidence bank records showing that the committee at Berkeley had received about \$3,300 for medical aid.

During a long recitation from

a stack of cards and papers, Mr. Hamilton called Mr. Pool a "racist from Texas" and condemned "fascist methods" of the committee. Mr. Hamilton refused to be excused and was carried out by marshals.

George Ewart Jr., also of Berkeley, approached the stand, saying, "I am willing to confront this kangaroo court."

He referred to legislation introduced by Mr. Pool as "the cesspool bill."

"It seems to me Mr. Pool is rather a fool," he added.

Mr. Ewart, a college student with dark bushy hair, said he had been West Coast coordinator of the May 2d Movement.

"Yes, I am a Communist and I am proud to say I am a member of the Progressive Labor Movement," he said.

### A.C.L.U. Allegation

John de J. Pemberton Jr., executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, had charged when the hearings started that the committee had subpoenaed the most militant leaders of the New Left in an effort to discredit all protest against the war in Vietnam.

At the start of today's session, a man and five women were ejected when they stood and shouted "murderer" at a retired Marine Corps general who had served in Vietnam. He was Brig. Gen. James Hittle, who testified that there was a need for legislation to control aid sent to the enemy from this country.

"It results in helping the enemy kill United States troops," he said. "That's someone's son, the kid next door or in this hearing room." The retired general is now director of national security for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. Pool, in summing up the hearings, said they "have fully revealed that the key leadership of these groups is made up of revolutionary, hard-core Communists."

Richard H. Ichord, Democrat of Missouri, said that when Americans send medical and other aid to the Vietcong and interfere with troop efforts "this is not legitimate dissent. This makes legitimate dissent difficult."

Mr. Ichord said that the groups under study "do not constitute a threat to the United States" but that they have posed a serious police problem in areas like Berkeley.

Most of the testimony from friendly witnesses had concerned demonstrations and antiwar efforts of the Vietnam Day Committee and other groups in and around Berkeley. Virtually all



Associated Press Wirephoto

General Hittle speaks to newsmen after testifying. He urged legislation to curb aid to the Vietcong.

the information had been published in newspapers.

Meanwhile, 12 Democratic Representatives signed a statement reasserting their "conviction that no committee of Congress has the power or authority to impugn the patriotism of any individual on the basis of his beliefs or to brand as un-American any person who espouses a cause with which the committee disagrees."

The 12, all critical of the committee in the past, were Jonathan B. Bingham of the Bronx, Benjamin S. Rosenthal of Queens, William F. Ryan of Manhattan, George E. Brown Jr., Philip Burton, Jeffery Cohelan, Don Edwards, Augustus F. Hawkins and Edward R. Roybal of California; John Conyers Jr. of Michigan; Donald M. Fraser of Minnesota and Henry Helstoski of New Jersey.

Those arrested during today's hearing included the following from New York City:

Key Louis Martin, 311 West 19th Street; Lorraine Fierstein, 210 West 21st Street; Sharon Martin, 311 West 19th Street; Mary Ann Weissman, 46 West 21st Street; Deidre Grisewold, 601 West 115th Street, and Linda Ramstad, 975 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn.

Also arrested were David Alexander Smith of Baltimore, Steve Cherkoss of San Francisco, Bruce Buchanan of Washington, D. C., and Mr. Rubin, the Berkeley protester.

The two other persons arrested were juveniles, and the police withheld their names.