

Book Review: [I Led 3 Lives](#), by Herbert A. Philbrick. 301 pages.

Imagine being a newlywed and new father who is active in your community in the late 30's. You join a group that wants 'peace on Earth' as you see some schmuck in Germany acting up. There is talk of America getting involved over there, and like most young men - conscript age men - you don't like it one bit.

So you join this group and you are recognized for being a leader. They elect you president of the group and you meet others who share your interests in world peace. You pass resolutions, gain strength in numbers, and coalesce around principles. All is good until you vote "no" on a resolution and are told by the other leaders that it will pass with or without your vote. It is 'decreed.'

You know nothing about politics, but you recall a term called, "Democratic Centralism." And you recall it is a term used for a top-down mandate meant to show democratic consensus. And you recall that this is something unique to Communism. While you consider quitting, you swing by the local FBI office to share your story. Some bored agent takes some notes, says no laws are broken, and says "Thanks."

This is how Herbert "Herb" Philbrick, author of [I Led 3 Lives](#), became a star witness against eleven Communist Party USA leaders a decade later. He stayed at the request of the FBI, and his value to the country increased with every promotion outside, then within, the Communist Party ranks in New England.

For years Herb was an advertising executive, an active Communist, and an FBI counterspy. You will experience, and appreciate, this tense juggling act as he moves through the Communist organizations. Some were Communist fronts with no visible ties to the Party, and others were active Communist Party organs bent on the violent overthrow of the United States.

You will learn the Party's priorities in regards to recruiting, internal security, and agitation. You will see how they embed themselves into campaigns including a unsuspecting presidential candidate's organization. They even wrote his speeches.

My biggest take-away from [I Led 3 Lives](#) was the different priorities and behaviors at each level. Philbrick explains how some allow zero flexibility, but at higher levels some flexibility to Party goals were allowed. Amazingly, the higher he went the less connection he was allowed with the Party. They even confiscate Party membership cards when you move into the Professional Cell level as he did.

The most entertaining part of Philbrick's experience was the week after Barbarosa - the German offensive against the Soviet Union. He lists the changes among his fellow Communists, and within the Communist publications. Hitler's betrayal turned the Communist agenda on its head, leading the Communists in America to adopt a pro-US, pro-war agenda. Absolutely hilarious.

Oddly, he makes no mention of the atomic bombs that ended World War II and clearly demonstrated US military superiority over the Soviets. I would assume it had a demoralizing effect on the movement. Since Philbrick was detailed about all other events, this apparently was not an issue for the Communists on American soil and their mission to infiltrate unions, groups and the government in preparation for their revolution. Philbrick died in 1993. If here were still alive, I'd seek him out with this query.

[I Led 3 Lives](#) is a well-written story that I recommend for all anti-Communists who want to learn internal Party tactics that continue today, or who just want to read a good nail-biter. I would suggest [Operation Solo](#) as a compliment to this book, as it is a story that covers the same era but from the FBI's perspective.

[Philbrick's Wikipedia page](#).

Karl, October 6, 2015

Selected Quotes:

P14:

I felt the strongest revulsion against Hitler's aggressions and disgust with the Russo-German pact. I believed in helping Britain to the limit of our abilities. But I favored first of all a strong America which could and would defend its peace.

P22:

I was shocked that the leaflets had been circulated over what was supposed to be my signature without my knowledge.

P32: FBI agent

He frowned. "You suspect that your organization had been taken over by Communists, is that it? Have you any proof."

P38:

I was impelled to ask myself, "Why?" What was it that instilled such devotion into these fellow-traveling Communists, to labor so hard for such a distorted cause. What was it that got into them? Was it sincere belief in the prattle of communism? Was it disillusionment and frustration that led them into these paths?

P39:

In the weeks that followed I studied *The Worker* scrupulously. Out of its welter of doubletalk I was able to trace the line of the Communist Party on the paramount issues of the day – condemnation of "imperialist" war; agitation for extremist strikes in industry, particularly, I

observed, in defense industries; opposition to credits of sale of arms to “belligerents” in Europe; aid to “free China”; repeal of the conscription law.

There was no deviation from this in any of the publications of the American Youth Congress or the Massachusetts Youth Council. Not all of the issues were seized so boldly. They were screened behind a solicitude for youth, and translated in terms of their effect on young people. Other issues, less controversial, surrounded the larger ones in the publications of the youth organizations. The Massachusetts Council, for example, placed its emphasis on education and job training, a cause which many non-Communists would gladly espouse.

P41 - 42: Barbarossa/Daily Worker

Support the USSR in its fight against Nazi War. That was the paper’s battle-cry headline, the new slogan of the “antiwar” party. It was still a fight against war. The lead article dodged and weaved like a back-pedaling prize fighter. “The armed assault by German Fascism and its satellites,” it said, “is an unprovoked criminal attack upon the greatest champion of peace, freedom and national independence – the land of socialism.”

I was sickened. At the same time there was an element of humor to it, which became more evident on closer examination of the pages of *The Worker*. The big switch was too sudden even for the comrades. A special series of articles condemning the Hollywood motion-picture industry as a tool of the “warmakers” had started in the paper on the fatal Sunday. But in the first issue after the party cartwheel, the second article of the series appeared in obviously abbreviated form and was captioned as “the concluding installment.” At that, it was not cropped quite enough to cover the Communists’ embarrassment.

P44:

In all of this, for twenty horrible months, the comrades had stood by, not because of a deep-rooted desire for peace, or for pacifism, but as a matter of political strategy. This was but a war between rival imperialist powers. Let them destroy one another. Thus, not only did the Communists refuse aid or sympathy themselves; the party members sought to sabotage the possibility of aid or help from anyone else.

P45: Speaking to his wife

“In spite of their prattle for the ‘masses,’ you can see that these people have no Christian compassion, no true regard for the individual, no real respect for his integrity. Somehow I have to fight for these things. Right no I can do it best by mixing with them, to learn more about what they are doing.”

P57:

The significant lesson of the Youth for Victory organization was that Communist influence in legitimate activities can be held in check, and infiltration can be thwarted if the membership is sufficiently interested in the organization and its activities.

P58:

It was a perfect example of the exploitation of legitimate complaints among Negroes for Communist ends. These people lived in squalid conditions and suffered heavily from discrimination and unfair treatment in their jobs and in their everyday pursuits. I visited their homes and talked to them, and saw them as a fertile field for Communist recruitment and development.

My Communist associates in the Committee worked over the community time after time. They staged rallies, and I saw how they kept rubbing salt in the wounds of the Negro people to stir up dissension and trouble.

P66:

To change a free mind into that of an underground counterspy is a severe strain. I did not enter my relationship with the Federal Bureau of Investigation by any long considered, well-laid plan. My relationship grew from a foundation of anger and frustration into a mutually agreeable working arrangement by slow and natural stages.

P67:

I saw enough of their subversive practices to give me the will to dedicate as much of my life as necessary to combatting them. The deliberate fraud and distortion with which they victimized sincere persons and corrupted honest humanitarianism outraged my sense of ethics.

If the keystone of communism was the will of the people, why then could it not, like other political parties, go to its source openly for support?

P72:

I learned that I had betrayed to Toni Grose a serious Marxist defect when I said that wars were outmoded and that there should be peaceful means for resolving international disputes. In the Marxist view, wars are necessary. There are two kinds of wars, the discussion leader explained, "just" and "unjust" wars. Communism is opposed only to wars of conquest, imperialist wars, and even those the Communists must attempt to convert into civil wars. Communists, the young instructress told us, do not oppose just wars waged to liberate people or to defend them from foreign attack. Such wars should be encouraged, should be supported.

"But isn't the Communist party ever pacifist?" I asked, recalling their pacifism in the CYC. "No," came the response from one of the group. "Marxism refutes pacifism. They are incompatible."

P73:

I learned that the public position of the Communist party can be, when occasion demands it, entirely at variance with the real party line, which remains inflexible.

I also learned that my independence would not be tolerated and caught my first inkling of the rigidity of party discipline. Independent thinking was not condoned. There was a straight and narrow line to follow, and in our discussions we would reach an impasse and progress no further

every time I injected an alien thought, until the comrades were certain that my deviation on each point had been erased and a "proper" Marxist viewpoint instilled in its place. I suspected that this was one of the functions of the classes, and in fact the discussions themselves bore me out. They were arranged to detect any measure of deviation and to root it out and destroy it. It gave me an idea as to the success of the party in winning persons of varying degrees of intelligence to its way of thinking. They had time and patience.

P91:

Out of the cell meetings I attended, I gained a new sense of party discipline and militancy. My fellow members were no longer the beginners of the original Cambridge cell. Weaklings were expelled, dropped, or sidetracked to menial tasks or back to "grubbing," and what was left was the hard core of the young Communist cause.

P92:

What kept my head above water was my natural Yankee resistance to the unrelieved bitterness, hatred, distrust, and atmosphere of doom that pervaded the swamp of communism.

P101:

It was plain in these sessions that decisions were being made at a higher level than the one on which I was working. And the only higher level was the office of District One, New England, of the Communist Party.

P102: letter to youth leaders in Boston area

"Every intelligent young American," the letter said, "has felt the urgent need for an organization uniting youth of all races, creeds and political beliefs. Around the program of American Youth for Democracy, it becomes possible to establish such unity in helping to shape the future of our generation."

The letter quoted from the statement of principles approved in New York. "All of us who adopt this program are active in the service to our country. We dedicate ourselves on the side of all that is just and progressive, and join hands with all youth in opposing everything that is reactionary and oppressive.

"This war, which now engulfs the whole world, was not of our making, but it is our war. Only by smashing fascism can we assure America's future in a world of peace and progress."

P103:

Next we got down to details. "Philbrick," I was instructed, "you will get up and suggest that we have a temporary chairman for the meeting, and you will nominate Don Bollen. Bollen, when you are elected you are to pick – at random, of course – the other temporary officers – vice-chairman, secretary, ballot counter, and so forth."

Then Bollen was handed a slip of paper. "Here are the names of the people you will pick for these positions," he was told.

The "democratic procedures" of the forthcoming meeting began to assume a definite shape.

P107:

No speakers had been called other than those previously selected.

P108:

“AYD is a nonpartisan group, and, as such, members of all political parties are welcome to join. The sole aim of AYD is the winning of the war, and we proceed in democratic fashion. No one political party will dominate the movement.”

The three of us knew the financial support came mainly out of Communist party coffers. But we couldn't say so, and we had to be prepared to answer questions on our monetary affairs. Therefore, as treasurer, I drew up a “dummy list” of contributors giving a total of about a hundred dollars a month.

P111:

It was a session with Dave Bennet's class devoted to “dialectical and historical materialism,” the foundation of Bolshevik revolution. This was the course and this the textbook that seized upon the dialectics of Marx and Engels to teach that “obsolescent, decadent capitalism: was a natural step along the way to socialism and communism, and further, that the development, while inevitable, can only be brought to practical fruition by utilizing the “contradictions” of society as the anvil on which to hammer out violent revolution.

I was told the “the transition from capitalism to socialism and the liberation of the working class from the yoke of capitalism cannot be effected by slow changes, by reforms, but only by the qualitative change of the capitalist system, by revolution.”

I was asked to accept the inevitability of the victory of communist, and I caught an important clue as to why so many young people are lured into Marxist paths. Marxism teaches them to resign themselves to the collective future, to give up the shaping of their own personal destinies, and to accept the alleged inflexible laws of class warfare and ultimate victory for the proletariat. They can simply let themselves go and be carried along to a goal they think they cannot escape. For weaklings floundering in a sea of trouble, Marxist-Leninist philosophy appears as a solid rock on which they can gain a footing – oblivious to the fact that the tide ultimately will come in and sweep them away.

P112:

Each front group in the network is baited with idealism. It is usually based on a legitimate and sincere motive, one which is compatible with certain principles of Marxism. It may be racial discrimination, as in the Cambridge Committee for Equal Opportunities; the aims of organized labor; job opportunities and training; pacifism, as in the Cambridge Youth Council, or any other worth-while cause. It may be a mild form of socialism, some cultural activity, or a burning political issue of the moment; but always the net is tossed out in perfectly legal waters, and while many fish swim by, a few are snared.

P113:

“Capitalism,” he said, “is getting worse all the time. But capitalism is moving forward. It happens to be moving forward toward its death. Now, socialism is moving forward, too, but socialism as a world society is moving forward toward its birth.”

P114:

Our mission was to be prepared to espouse the revolution and assist it when it did come. Thus the party led the young communists, in slow stages, from public denial of revolutionary intent, to the new insight that there would indeed be a revolution – but not through any fault of the innocent Communists, of course. Violence by capitalists had to be answered by violence from the workers. Newcomers in the movement are not immediately taught the ultimate party position.

P116: WWII

It was a time of abnormal Communist activity. The party cooperated willingly and enthusiastically with the constitutional authorities, eschewed all obstructionist tactics, and with singular purpose aided in the prosecution and winning of the war.

P126:

This rule of secret service is especially applicable when working inside a group like the Communist party, where every member, no matter how “trusted” he may be, is constantly under suspicion and subject to examination and tests.

P132: Duclos Affair – end of WWII, Communist Party shifted back to agitation and anti-capitalism. Earl Browder, and any followers, are out.

P137:

I was assigned by district headquarters to the task of infiltrating a liberal group known as the Massachusetts Political Action Committee, to survey the organization and determine whether the PAC could be taken over and used as a political front by the party.

One of my major assignments during this period was a treasury drive for American Youth for Democracy. It was no longer sufficient to tax dwindling membership, or to rely on door-to-door solicitation.

P164: The purge of the “Browderite deviationists.”

P167:

The party’s security consciousness was given its deepest shock when, on October 10, 1945, Louis Budenz abruptly announced his resignation as managing director of the Daily Worker, his renunciation of communism, and his return to the Catholic Church.

P177: Bourgeois, petty bourgeois and proletariat.

Therefore, the petty bourgeois is in reality a member of the proletariat, the only difference being that he does not know it. We can sometimes win these people over if we present the facts properly. Certain members of the petty bourgeoisie can become extremely valuable allies. But since the average person in this class imagines himself to be a capitalist, he is dangerous to us because of his stupidity. In a crisis, he becomes an ally of the capitalists, and they must be crushed and destroyed together.

Hulda closed with a discussion to the various classes. She stressed the necessity of gauging the proper "level" of a raw recruit, and said that it was impossible to start off immediately by teaching the urgency of revolution. To do so would scare the prospect away. He must be started at the right place, then brought along step by step, without losing control on the way.

P179:

...the Communist Party was even then working under the shadow of the Smith Act, making the teaching and advocacy of violent revolution a crime in the United States. The law was passed without fanfare in 1940 and was directed, at that time, more at fascist organizations than at the Communists. Now the Communists recognized the law as being applicable to their own teachings, which they took great pains to cloak in the greatest secrecy. Yet I was amazed at the transparency of the disguise.

P180:

But we understood. Otherwise, as Fanny said, we would not have assembled there in the chill atmosphere, poor light, and personal discomfort hour after hour to go over it.

We as students knew that when the instructors spoke of the materialist order of constant and inevitable changes in society, they meant now, today, not 1789 in France or 1914 in Russia. We knew that when they told us man's destiny is conditioned by events over which he has no control, they meant today's man, not some historic creature caught up in some past upheaval. We knew that when they said violent revolution is one of the abrupt changes decreed by the laws of nature, they were not speaking of history, but metaphorically they were endeavoring to shape future events.

We knew that when they said violent revolution was necessary for the overthrow of a capitalist czardom, they meant that it would be equally necessary for the ultimate overthrow of "capitalist imperialism" in the United States.

There was no room for misinterpretation of this line. No alternative political or social theses were taught. It was straight down the line toward Marxist revolution. We were under no illusions as to what was meant when we were told that the ballot box and orderly procedure do not suffice, that man is antipathetic to reforms by legal process, and that armed force alone will suffice.

We knew all this well from our years of Marxist indoctrination. I knew it. And still, when Fanny Harman took off the gloves and slugged it out in plain language, it came as such a shock to me that I almost dropped my pencil and forgot to take my notes.

P184:

In plain language, Manny was giving us a mission to spy on party members. The assignment gave me more than a moment's pause. First of all life was becoming enormously complex for me. On one page, I was the conservative businessman, suburban churchgoer, liberal Republican, civic enterpriser. On the next page I was a deep-dyed member of the Communist Party of New England, sitting in on its multifarious conspiracy. Between the lines, I was a Federal Bureau of Investigation confidential agent, striving to perform a service. Within these categories, there were already more subdivisions that I could keep track of.

Now the party itself was grooming me for still another role, that of a member of a sort of junior review commission, with the task of strengthening the very movement I was trying to fight, by ferreting out its weaklings and potential traitors. I was burrowing so deep that I feared I might yet be trapped in the catacombs.

P187:

Instances came within the range of my experience which proved for me that disciplinary measures taken to silence a "traitor" could be of a very permanent nature. I attended one conference at which the impending liquidation of a member was discussed (it did not take place, I am glad to report); on another occasion a responsible party functionary bragged that a Communist suspected by the party of being a government agent had "successfully committed suicide"; and finally, I was told on reliable authority that a comrade, thought to be weak and unreliable, was literally driven to suicide by this Communist "friends."

P191: Early stage Democrat – Communist alignment

There would be no effort to present enduring political solutions, nor even to make sound political sense. If one theory held that unity and purpose in a nation could be sought through the electorate could be exploited to generate disunity and confusion. Every election campaign from the local school board to the Presidency became fair game for Communist intrusion and infiltration – with or without the knowledge or assent of the candidates.

He did not even know it. He had no idea that he had been carefully hand-picked ahead of time to serve as a grindstone for the "sharpening of contradictions." Roche had no Communist sympathies – far from it. He was a liberal spokesman of organized labor and a determined anti-Communist, too astute and independent to be made into a party dupe. Yet despite his astuteness and his hospitality to Communists, he was tricked into their employment by the same methods that can be and are brought to bear on candidates for the office in any political subdivision of the United States. Roche happened to be a Democrat.

P196:

But there was one, Anthony M. Roche, who in spite of numerous drawbacks might fill the bill. "He's running for Congress," I argued before the planning committee, "and so he will take in the entire district. We can reach more people through him than we could through one of the municipal candidates. Furthermore, he's a Democrat, and we can probably persuade him to tackle more issues in at least the right direction. He's practically a cinch to win the primary, so

we won't have to worry about losing him in the middle of the race. We can start in on him right now."

"All right," Comrade R came back. "But he's an independent cuss. Told us he wouldn't make any deals with anyone, no matter who they represent. He doesn't want any strings attached to him and I don't believe he's going to have any. But that's not all. He's an anti-Communist, said so himself."

"All the better," I declared. "The more anti-Communist he is the more so-called 'respectable' people we can reach through him. And so far as the strings are concerned, we don't want to tie him up. All we want to do is support him. There are no deals involved. He'll certainly accept our help if it's free."

"Yes, but don't forget he's pro-Truman," was the rejoinder.

"Yes," someone else came in, "but he's a strong labor man and the best one in the field. We can't expect to have everything."

P200:

To the communist party, the biggest political consideration of the period from 1946 to 1948 was the economic crisis in the United States which the party was certain would come, and was determined to foster. It would be signaled by inflation and culminated by a sweeping depression as the nation tried to struggle back to a peacetime economy. The party anticipated that the depression would strike during the last quarter of 1948. It would be more devastating than the 1929 crash, and would thus serve the party's advantage. It might well bring the great opportunity for socialist revolt, and the Communists were confident that it would be the prelude to their seizure of power.

The period immediately following the war was, therefore, a period for build-up, for the gathering of forces, the closing of ranks, and the gaining of friends and allies. The 1946 election was a primary Communist "transmission belt," through which the effort was to be made to convince the broadest possible segment of the population that an economy-shattering crisis was on the horizon. The party set out to play on fears that the catastrophe would strike at the individual pocketbook. The frightening aspects of inflation, unemployment, public relief, lack of housing, and scarce jobs were amplified for the ears of returning service men and members of organized labor. The party believed, rightly or wrongly, that from the ranks of the returned service men, easily moved to deep resentments after a bitter fight to preserve their security and establish a firm future, they might enlist a large number of allies.

P202:

And Communists are pro-bureaucratic, in that they recognize bureaucracy as one of the "creeping diseases of capitalism." The party teaches that, as capitalism grows, bureau is piled on bureau in an effort to control the growth. Eventually, Stalin and Lenin believe, the government becomes top-heavy, and the whole thing crashes.

P227:

A "floater," I knew, was a party member, separated for security reasons from all normal party cells and organizations. He is a party free-lance agent who is contacted only by a few leaders,

by courier, mail drop, or covert telephone calls. He holds no regular jobs with the party that bring him in touch with other members in large groups. The floater is but one step removed from the "sleeper," who is ordered to drop completely out of Communist life, sever all his relations with the party including the leadership, until he is called upon for a particular mission, perhaps years hence. In the meantime he leads a normal life, with all traces of his Communist ties banished, both in and out of the party. It may even intentionally be made known in party circles that he has been dropped out for disciplinary purposes or as an undesirable. Both floaters and sleepers have been used in Communist espionage and underground circles for many years, in all countries, as a means of concealment.

P232:

A Communist is all things to all people. Some regard him as an intellectual, essentially harmless but intense, spouting Marxism in abstruse terms. Another thinks of a Communist as a tough-fisted labor leader swinging a club on the picket line; others as a sinister professor, a suave diplomat, a swarthy saboteur, a bomb-throwing assassin. But every non-Communist, no matter what his station in life, is usually quite sure of one thing: that there are no hardened, disciplined Communists in his immediate circle of friends and acquaintances. No one he knows well and likes could possibly be among those who attend secret meetings and listen to discussions of revolution, violence, and the rise of the proletariat. Each man has a few friends he regards as "radical," perhaps. But none of them, he is sure, would go so far as to conspire. None preaches civil strife, or believes in it. Those who do that sort of thing live in a world apart. They are shadowy figures in the darkness of unreality, fictional characters who occasionally break into the headlines as atom spies or Communist couriers, but they are not real. The average American cannot conceive of a Communist revolutionary living next door to him or occupying the desk just across the aisle.

So I had always thought. In spite of all my experiences over the years as a working Communist, I had convinced myself that the ardent members of the party, although I knew them and worked with them, belonged in a different world. Few of them could have been my good friends under any circumstances. I looked upon them as actors to be watched on a stage, who lingered only as illusions when I left the theater. I recognized their threat, their insidiousness, and the perfidy, but I never accepted them as an integral part of my own life.

Until now, when I was forced to a sudden awakening.

P234:

The big man across the room apparently accepted with perfect equanimity the fact that I – assistant advertising director of the largest entertainment organization in New England, a family man, father of four daughters, Sunday-school teacher, youth leader – should also be here in a nest of Communists, listening to a discussion of the state and how to overthrow it. I wondered if it had been a surprise to him, or if he actually regarded it as normal.

P236:

There is only one way to find and expose the underground Communist. You have to get right in there with him, down in the muck. There is no other way.

P246:

It called for complete rejection of the Marshall Plan for strengthening Western Europe; the withdrawal of all military personnel, equipment, and aid from Greece and Turkey (on whose borders Communist pressure was constantly applied); the rejection of universal military training and drastic reduction of military expenditures to an "absolute minimum"; support of "democratic" China; repeal of President Truman's loyalty order and "revocation" of the power of the FBI. On the domestic scene, the Communists wrote into the platform measure after measure which would make the people even more dependent on their government for everything in their lives – jobs, health, security, housing, education, et al.

P249:

The front is the stock outlet for pro-group operations. The fronts which we used were of four general types, with many degrees of shading between them. Failure to distinguish between these groups and to understand the Communist Party's methods and aims is one of the greatest weaknesses of the anti-Communist forces, and a source of many injustices.

Front levels:

Communist Front

Coalition

Humanitarian Organizations

Infiltration

P255:

"This lacks specific objectives," she said harshly. "The time has come when we must be realistic. Civil disobedience is nothing new in American history. There are opportunities for it on all sides. We Communists must be vigilant to support incidents of civil disobedience wherever we find them, and to initiate them where necessary."

P257:

One eventuality was the possible passage of the Mundt-Nixon bill, then up for consideration in Congress, which would have outlawed the Communist Party.

P268:

As a matter of fact, the stock of Henry Wallace among the Communists dropped rapidly as the election drew nearer. He was privately taken to task for the errors of his "progressive capitalism," the notion, deadly to Marxist-Leninism, that the reformed capitalism can succeed. It was a similar idea to that which frightened the Communist party away from the late Wendell Willkie.

P276: redistribution

Indirectly, through the Boston School for Marxist Studies, I learned what some of the methods of opposition would be, below the ideological level. One of them was sabotage. The Communists, recognizing that in the aftermath of a revolution it would be necessary for them to restore a

productive economy as quickly as possible, wisely planned to avoid wholesale destruction of valuable machinery through sabotage. They spelled out a policy of preserving irreplaceable machinery which was regarded, after all, as the rightful property of the workers. Instead, the plan was to incapacitate temporarily entire plants and their crucial machines by knocking out power supplies, wrecking transmission lines, conduits, cables, generators, transformers – any facility which would render productive machinery useless to the governing authorities, but leave it essentially intact to be restored immediately by the revolutionary forces. In concrete terms, they would not destroy rail locomotives and rolling stock, but would merely deny their use by ripping out the track. The saboteurs would strive for a complete paralysis (rather than destruction) of the critical points – bridges, dams, water-supply lines, communications, etc. Otis Hood, in keeping with his usual demeanor, was very pleasant about the whole thing. “After we have won the revolution,” he said, “destroyed the capitalist state, smashed the ruling power, and taken over the means of production, then we shall have a world without war, without opposition, without hunger – a world of peace.” He spoke as if he believed it.

P285:

Until I took the stand at a little after two o'clock on April 6, 1949, I was a “member in good standing” of the Communist party in the United States. Until that moment the comrades, despite any suspicions, had no certain proof that intelligence operatives were behind their lines, watching their important moves. The astonishment at the defense table was well founded.

P290:

The party, meanwhile, scurried around Boston, trying desperately to find out just who I was. Some of the pro-group members were so shocked to find they had been infiltrated by the FBI that they could not believe that their Comrade Herb and the witness Philbrick were the same man. Still others had worked closely with me in front groups for many years without ever knowing me as a Communist. When the district leadership recovered from the shock a few days later, they started a determined campaign of vilification in an effort to discredit me as a witness. But it was all vitriol, and had no foundation in fact. In leaflets and fliers distributed in Boston and New York, they called me “cheap informer,” “spreader of fantastic tales,” “present-day Judas,” “stool pigeon,” “labor spy,” and “wormy character,” among other things. But they did not refute my testimony. And ultimately, in order to save face, the party, rather than deny I had ever been a member, admitted it by announcing publicly that I was officially expelled. Thus they were forced to confirm the fact that I had been a member in good standing.

P300:

Such measures as the outlawing of the Communist Party could conceivably destroy government intelligence work without seriously damaging the underground party, and thus in the end merely serve to strengthen the Communist hand.

P301:

Time after time I learned in my party experiences that the Communist movement is not genuinely antifascist, any more than it is genuinely in favor of civil liberties, better housing, peace, or any of the other causes its leaders so ardently espouse. If every basis for Communist discontent today were suddenly removed and their every demand granted, tomorrow the professional leaders of the Communist Party would find or provoke new causes of discontent, and would draw up a fresh list of demands.