



Dr. Fred Schwarz

The Schwarz Report



Dr. David Noebel

March 2014

“Truth is the cry of all but the game of a few.” George Berkeley (1685-1753) Irish Philosopher

Pete Seeger (1919-2014): Communist

by David A. Noebel

Reprints of the People’s Songs *Bulletin* make it obvious that Pete Seeger, People’s Songs Executive Secretary, was the motivating and driving force behind the organization. Seeger admits, “We called our organization People’s Songs to distinguish it from the scholarly folklore societies, and started a bulletin. I wanted it to be a weekly; others persuaded me to be more conservative and make it monthly.”

He readily acknowledges the role of People’s Songs in bringing about a revival of interest in folk music and even explains how folk music—Seeger style—grew in popularity among our university and college students. He says, “Because the young people in summer camps and schools grew up and went to college.” It takes little ingenuity to grasp the significance of this statement and the nature of the camps and schools, e.g., the Jefferson School of Social Science or the Metropolitan Music School, Inc., referred to in his admission.

Seeger also admits that the magazine *Sing Out!* carried on where People’s Songs left off. The People’s Songs *Bulletin* ceased publication in 1949. One year later *Sing Out!* was born assuring continuance of the *Bulletin*’s basic philosophy and over the years has increased its circulation to 25,000.

Mr. Seeger has been very busy over the past two decades performing for Communists, pro-Communists, and left-wing organizations and causes. *Life* magazine described him as “A Minstrel with a Mission,” but failed to inform its readers of his long-range mission. Seeger’s songs, book, and articles in *Sing Out!* magazine would seem to clearly define his stand in the struggle between Communism and Freedom—the struggle which George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO, says is “the problem of our time . . . overshadowing all other problems.” In Seeger’s book, *American Favorite Ballads*, we are told point blank, “Workingmen of all tongues unite—you have NOTHING TO LOSE but your chains—you have a world to win. Vive La Revolution Sociale.”

Marx said nearly the same thing in the closing lines of the *Communist Manifesto*.

Through the pages of *Sing Out!*, Seeger and his associates have consistently defended the Spanish Communists of the Lincoln Brigade as well as the Communist take over of Cuba. They continuously derogate the House Committee on Un-American Activities (now the House Committee on Internal Security), going so far as to call Herbert A. Philbrick and Louis Budenz “stool pigeons.” And naturally they proceed to foment class hatred between white and black. In the Sept./Oct. 1970 issue Seeger copyrighted on behalf of the Black Panther Party the following ditty:

Cause there ain’t enough pigs [police]
In the whole wide world
To stop the Black Panther Party
From serving the people

Poor Black Power
Gun totin’ power
Pig killing power
It’s growing by the hour.

A two-year Harvard man, Pete Seeger has been identified under oath by an FBI undercover agent as having been a member of the Communist Party. His actions over the years would hardly disprove the charge. The Attorney General of the United States has declared subversive the following organizations with which Pete Seeger has affiliated himself: (1) American Committee for a Protection of Foreign Born, (2) American Committee for Yugoslav Relief, (3) American Youth Congress, (4) American Youth for Democracy, (5) Civil Rights Congress, (6) Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy, (7) Committee for the Negro Arts, (8) Communist Party, (9) Council on African Affairs, (10) Jefferson School of Social Science, (11) National Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professors, (12) Nature Friends of America, (13) New Masses, (14) Voice of Freedom Committee and (15) Win-the-Peace Conference.

His biography over the past few decades reads like a Who's Who in Communist Activity. *News and Views* for July, 1965, listed over ninety Communist fronts and activities of Pete Seeger, but even this is a partial listing of his hundreds of pro-Communist activities over the past thirty years. He was billed as the entertainer, according to the *Daily Worker* of March 29, 1946, at a supper given for Peter V. Cachione, Chairman of the Brooklyn Communist Party.

He provided the entertainment, according to the *Daily Worker* of June 20, 1947, for the Allerton Section of the Communist Party's housewarming.

He entertained the Southern California Chapter of the subversive American Committee for Yugoslav Relief, according to the *People's World* of October 22, 1947, at one of their picnics.

Seeger provided the entertainment, according to the *Daily Worker* of April 20, 1948, for the Essex County Communist Party's May Day Rally.

He entertained the Cultural Division of Communist Party of New York at a May Day show, according to the *Daily Worker* of May 4, 1949. This same *Worker* identified Seeger as a member of the Music Section of the Cultural Division of the Communist Party along with two other members of The Weavers' singing group.

Seeger was the entertainer, according to the *Daily Worker* of June 1, 1949, at the Testimonial Dinner of the twelve US Communist Party leaders at St. Nick's Arena.

Pete marched in the Communist Party of New York May Day parade in 1950. He also marched in the May Day parade in 1952.

Seeger lectured at the subversive Jefferson School of

Social Science, according to the *Daily Worker* of February 15, 1954.

He was a sponsor, as shown by letterhead stationary of July 10, 1955, of the subversive New York Committee for Protection of the Foreign Born.

He entertained at the rallies of the subversive National Council of American-Soviet Friendship in 1958, 1960, and 1962.

Seeger, a major fund-raiser for the subversive National Council to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee, entertained the organization's meeting in 1960, 1961, and 1962, according to *The Worker* of October 16, 1960, April 21, 1961, and January 28, 1962.

According to *The Worker* of March 4, 1962, Pete Seeger provided the entertainment for a rally of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade cited as subversive by several Congressional committees.

Seeger provided the entertainment for the Youth Against the House Un-American Activities Committee. One government report stated, "One rally of the group held on January 31, 1960, featured Clark Foreman, executive director of a cited Communist-front, the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, as master of ceremonies. At that rally he lavishly praised Harvey O'Connor, an identified Communist. Pete Seeger, another identified Communist, provided the entertainment."

"The case of Pete Seeger, the folk singer," according to another government report, "offers another example of the type of assistance the US Communist Party receives from abroad. Seeger, as mentioned before, has been identified as a member of the Communist Party and today, as for many years past, is an inveterate promoter of party fronts and the party line."

Further information from government sources regarding Pete Seeger: "On April 24, 1962, *The Worker* (Communist Party newspaper) announced a 'Folk and Jazz Concert' to raise funds for the United States Festival Committee. Identified Communist Party member Pete Seeger was listed among persons scheduled to perform."

And again, "Some demonstrators, on April 15, burned their draft cards and even the American flag in the New York City demonstration. Swastikas were also placed over reproductions of the US flag in order to imply that the USA is a Nazi-like nation. . . . Identified Communist Party member, Pete Seeger, provided the entertainment for the New York activity."

Mrs. Paul Robeson, in a column in *The Worker*, writes that "Carnegie Hall was put to very fine use the night after Christmas 1964, when Pete Seeger, having collected

songs from people all over the world, sang them back to the people.” Eslanda Robeson’s eulogy of Seeger was so moving that even Jacob Dworkin of Moscow commented, “I could only wish that such concerts could be organized in every city, bringing to the people a feeling of universal working class brotherhood and arousing the best impulses that are hidden in every honest American for peaceful coexistence and hatred toward those who are planning a new war. I am taking this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the singer Pete Seeger, to Eslanda and our great friend, Paul Robeson and their families and naturally to *The Worker* for publishing Eslanda’s excellent article.”

According to the Communist press, Seeger was to perform at a rally of the Committee for Non-Violent Action in New York City. The purpose of the rally was to propagandize for US surrender in Vietnam.

“American Dialog,” the semi-official cultural publication of the Communist Party, has announced the appointment of Pete Seeger to its board of sponsors. The Dialog’s editor is Joseph North, writer on the editorial board of the *Worker*. Associate editor is Walter Lowenfels, identified under oath as having been a member of the Communist Party, and more recently editor of the latest Communist collection of poems published by International Publishers under the title, *Poets of Today*. Other sponsors of “American Dialog” include Will Geer, John Howard Lawson, Linus Pauling, Paul Robeson, Bertrand Russell, Rev. Stephen H. Fritchman, Waldo Frank, and Shirley Graham DuBois.

Pete Seeger gave his open endorsement and recommendation to the Communists’ Ninth World Youth Festival for Peace and Friendship. The festival was to be held in Communist Algeria. Seeger comments, “If you believe in peace on earth and if you can scrape up the money for the trip, it’s Algiers; July 28th-August 7th.” Since Ben Bella’s regime was overthrown, the Festival was held in Helsinki. On June 1, 1965, Pete Seeger and Bernice Reagon were the entertainers at a folk concert in New York to raise money for the World Youth Festival.

The World Youth Festivals are the products of the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the International Union of Students, both formed at the end of World War II under the direction of Moscow. Beginning in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1947 and every two years thereafter through 1959, these groups jointly sponsored a World Youth Festival. Then after a first-time lapse of three years, the eighth festival was held in Helsinki, Finland, during the summer of 1962. An American student attending the Eighth World Youth Festival testified, “It was definitely anti-American. The theme of every seminar was ‘Hate

America.’ As Mr. Quinlan said, the cultural activities were all against America, pictures of the Hiroshima Bombing, the puppet shows that were given were against America. There was a farce on religion, things of this nature.”

The 1965 Festival was a little better. *National Review* reported, “grand slam for America at Communist-dominated World Peace Congress in Helsinki last week. America fielded the biggest delegation (98 out of a total of 800) and all ten of the reports before the house that were adopted, with the enthusiastic assent of the US delegates, were anti-American’ . . .”

Another Seeger gift to Moscow was his appearance at Moscow University where he sang an anti-US song for his Communist audience. He sang a Vietnam protest ballad, “King Henry,” whose “bitterness was aimed at the American military presence in Vietnam.” The American Embassy had nothing to do with his appearance, according to the press, but the State Department issued him a visa.

The ironic significance of Seeger’s trip to Moscow was that it came only a few months after the once conservative Missouri Lutheran Synod featured him at its International Walther League Convention held at Squaw Valley, California, July 5-9, 1965. The *Newsletter* announcing the folk singer’s appearance portrayed him as “a well-known folk singer whose unique ability to analyze and cut to the heart of the problems with music is honored and respected throughout the world.” “He is noted,” continued the *Newsletter*, “for his sensitivity to the needs of the people and the underdogs of society, never hesitating to speak out for truth and love of those in need. Many young people will know him for the music he has written or co-authored. Among these are: ‘Where Have All the Flowers Gone’—‘We Shall Overcome’—‘If I Had a Hammer’—‘Kisses Sweeter Than Wine.’ His Columbia recording ‘We Shall Overcome’ is considered a classic of the folk singing world. Pete Seeger will offer a message of enslavement and freedom—an honest message from one in the midst of the struggle.”

Needless to say, Seeger is not concerned with the truth when it involves Communist Party activities, and for the Walther League to listen to a message on “enslavement and freedom” from one who is constantly defending and playing for those representing the greatest slave tyranny of all history is sheer folly and deceit.

However, to prove Seeger’s remarkable ability to deceive even the elect, in a post-convention rally of the Missouri District Walther League held at St. Paul’s College in Concordia, Missouri, August 20-22, 1965, the Lutheran young people were actually told, “If only more

leaguers, pastors, and adults could have been there to hear Mr. Seeger testify to the leaguers with his unforgettable folk music, his humbleness, his interest in keeping our youth strong in devotion to our country as the land we love so well. . . . To accuse a man of ‘faking’ such a tremendous presentation and following discussion would be most un-Christian as were the acts done by so many of our Lutherans who thought this fellow must come off the program. Certain ‘disturbed’ Lutheran people still will not agree with the 3,200 leaguers, pastors, and high-ranking Synod officials that this man was genuine. Mr. Seeger’s devotion to the United States of America must not be challenged anymore. Were you there?”

One can be sure that Mr. Seeger did not sing and play his weird rendition of “Aimee McPherson” or give forth with “Working men of all tongues unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains, you have a world to win—vive la Revolution Sociale.” And naturally he would not tell these Christian young people that his “We Shall Overcome” was made popular through the efforts of the pro-Communist Highlander Folk School of Monteagle, Tennessee, and just happens to be Fidel Castro’s official revolutionary slogan.

It should be noted that Mr. Seeger was in Moscow in 1964 where he was royally entertained by the “famed” Soviet Army Chorus. According to the *New York Times*, “Mr. Seeger punctuated his informal singing and playing with folksy comments about American folk music, some of its leading figures—including the late Huddie (Leadbelly) Ledbetter and Woody Guthrie—and some outspoken criticism of television.” He also led the audience in his “We Shall Overcome.”

From this type of activity alone, but certainly in conjunction with scores of other pro-Communist activities, one would expect a Christian organization like the Missouri Walther League to cease sitting at Seeger’s socks—singing Seeger’s songs.

At least the *Knoxville Journal* tried to expose Seeger and his trip to Moscow. The paper said, “People hereabouts noted in yesterday’s *Journal*, with interest if not surprise, that good old American Folk Singer Pete Seeger had finally made it to the mecca of Communism to give some of his widely known anti-US performances. From Moscow, Reuters reported that Seeger sang a song of protest against American policy in Vietnam for the first time during his three-week tour of the Soviet Union to students of Moscow University. The occasion was the second of three appearances in the Russian capital at the end of a three-week tour of Soviet Central Asian and Trans-Caucasian cities.

“Pete’s name is known here because of its close association over several years with the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, which is now Highlander Center here on Riverside Drive. He is an old buddy of Guy Carawan, another so-called folk singer, who made an appearance in months past at the Presbyterian Center on the University of Tennessee campus. For many years the Communist apparatus throughout the world has methodically urged its people to make use of ‘folk songs’ to spread Red propaganda and the folk singer has played an important part in this process.

“The reader will recall the Highlander was founded by Myles Horton in company with James Dombrowski, an identified Communist, who until some years ago was included in the Highlander board of directors and now is the head of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, a Communist outfit based in New Orleans. Carl Braden, several of whose so-called civil rights workers have appeared in the police news locally within the past few weeks, is a close associate of Dombrowski, and he and Mrs. Braden are employed by the Southern Conference Educational Fund.

“There is doubtless great rejoicing among Pete Seeger’s old time associates that he has had this *triumphal tour of treason* [our emphasis] in a country where most of us wish that all good American Communists would go to take up permanent residence.”

Also disturbing at the Missouri League’s August meeting was its distribution of *Songs For Today*. It is a compilation of basically good music except for the shocking suggestion, “One of the most intriguing studies of folk song literature is to be found in a pamphlet entitled ‘Sing Out’ published by Oak Publishing, New York, New York. Some one of you might want to send for it as a resource for understanding this kind of music. Folk singers, such as Joan Baez or Pete Seeger, have produced a large number of records that are rich resources for the history and flavor of these melodies and words.” In the book’s selected bibliography for further study, *Sing Out!* is again mentioned.

Then, too, in more recent happenings, Concordia Publishing House in a new publication “Spirit Talk” called Seeger, The Beatles, Joan Baez, and Bob Dylan “pop prophets” and recommended their music as “songs of social significance and theological importance.”

In 1967 Seeger received partial payment for his pro-Communist activities—he personally accepted the Communist East German Peace medal in an East Berlin Hootenanny Club. A member of the Communist East Germany peace council bestowed the award upon Seeger because

he is supposed to be a “fighter for freedom” and “against oppression.” Nothing was said about the oppressive and freedom-restricting Berlin wall that Seeger went through to obtain his reward for faithful service.

Indeed one year later Seeger was back in the US setting up “coffeehouse” programs outside military bases geared to quicken dissent on Vietnam among GIs leery of going to South Vietnam. Assisting Seeger in the programs were Barbara Dane, Dustin Hoffman, Phil Ochs, David Dellinger, Edward Albee, and Rev. William Coffin, Jr.

Although Seeger refers to himself as “I’m as Communist as the American Indian,” his activities point to a deeper analogy. The Communist *Daily World* provided one when it reported Seeger in Havana, Cuba, dedicating songs to self-admitted Communist Angela Davis and otherwise entertaining Castro’s young revolutionaries.

Consistently enough, Seeger, under oath, has declined to answer whether or not he ever was a member of the Communist Party. When he was indicted in 1955 for contempt of Congress, he refused to answer questions concerning his Communist associates and affiliations. Still, it took a jury of twelve Americans only one hour and twenty minutes to find Pete Seeger guilty on all counts. During the trial, Federal Judge Thomas F. Murphy asked the singer once again if he were then, or ever had been a member of the Communist Party. Seeger once again declined to answer.

Consistent with the trend of our time, Seeger’s conviction was later overturned by a US Court of Appeals on a minor technicality. (See *Congressional Record*, February 18, 1969, p. E1060.) The courts have become so effective in hampering the prosecution of subversive activities in our nation that even the Attorney General has a difficult time citing any new organization as subversive. “The limitations placed on his office by the courts is having the effect of stopping further citations.”

Yet one of the most amazing psychological miracles of our times is the ability of Pete Seeger to maintain a sense of quasi-respectability. Alger Hiss, Owen Lattimore, and a whole host of other traitors were never able to maintain such an aura. Who, but Seeger, could entertain on Sesame Street, the Dinah Shore Program, the Johnny Cash Show and at the same time recommend Gus Hall’s work *Ecology: Can We Survive Under Capitalism?* In fact, the Communist *Daily World* for February 19, 1972, quoted Seeger as saying, “If you think you’ve already heard from the biologists and the lawyers, you better be prepared to hear also from the Marxists. A good place to start would be *Ecology: Can We Survive Under Capitalism?* by Gus

Hall, leader of the US Communist Party.”

In 1968 he was the honored guest and entertainer of the World Council of Churches meeting in Uppsala, Sweden. According to one report the “delegates from the ‘Third World’ found Seeger enchanting.” But others were bound to find him “enchanting” since there was “a deep current of anti-Americanism [running] beneath assembly deliberations. It seemed to be based on opposition to the war in Vietnam and to America’s affluence as well as on a preference for socialism and Communism over capitalism.”

Of course, W.C.C. leadership had already declared Pete Seeger, Joan Baez, and Phil Ochs as the new hymn writers for the coming new day. It seems our present hymns are too ‘individualistic.’ Instead, our new hymns will taste something like the following:

In was on a Friday morning that they took me from the cell

And I saw they had a carpenter to crucify as well

You can blame it onto Pilate, you can blame it on the Jews,

You can blame it on the Devil, It’s God I accuse.

It’s God they ought to crucify instead of you and me
I said to the carpenter a hanging on the tree.

Seeger, along with Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan, Ted Bikel, Paul Robeson, Burl Ives, Richard Dyer-Bennett, also received excellent publicity in the Boy Scout magazine *Boy’s Life*. In fairness, however, it should be noted that the publisher of *Boy’s Life*, Oliver S. Johnson, later retracted the article and said, “We certainly don’t intend to mention any more Communists. Editor Robert Hood regrets that the original article wasn’t scrapped.”

However, in 1970, *Guideposts*, edited by Norman Vincent Peale, not only ran a complimentary article on Seeger (Seeger is now a conservationist—just like Alger Hiss was once described as a bird watcher), but made reprints available to church groups, clubs, friends, and relatives. To label Seeger a conservationist is as misleading as labeling Hiss “a State Department employee.”

The respectable *Audubon* magazine followed the same format with an article on Seeger entitled “A Man, A Boat, A River, A Dream.”

Because of space limitations, further information on Seeger, his background and activities may be found in the February 18, 1969, *Congressional Record*, page E1060. Also Denisoff in *Great Day Coming* presents an excellent analysis of Seeger’s Communist activities.

—David A. Noebel, *The Marxist Minstrels: A Handbook on Communist Subversion of Music* (1974)

Folk Music Legend

by Stephen Miller

Pete Seeger was a champion of folk music whose influences ranged across the country's political and cultural landscapes, which he saw as inexorably intertwined.

The composer, banjo player, and performer died Monday at age 94 after more than seven decades before the public in which he had a number of Top 40 hits, was convicted of contempt of Congress, and marched with Martin Luther King Jr. His causes grew to embrace environmentalism, the Iraq war, and Occupy Wall Street.

As much as any other performer, Mr. Seeger brought folk music into popular music. "Wimoweh," based on a South African Zulu tune and later rerecorded as "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," was a hit for his group, the Weavers, in 1952.

The Weavers enjoyed spectacular success, selling four million records in a single year. The group's hits included "On Top of Old Smoky" and "Goodnight, Irene."

But accusations of Communist sympathies hamstrung the group. For refusing to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1955, Mr. Seeger was convicted in 1961 of contempt of Congress and sentenced to a year in prison. The sentence was reversed on appeal, and in 1963 Mr. Seeger headlined Carnegie Hall.

By then a folk-music revival was under way, breeding such popular acts as Bob Dylan and Peter, Paul & Mary, who had a hit with "If I Had a Hammer," co-written by Mr. Seeger and Lee Hays of the Weavers.

The Little Sandy Review, a touchstone of the folk-music genre, wrote in 1964: "All of us who participate in the folk music revival are, in varying degrees of kinship, Pete's children."

Mr. Seeger was self-taught on the five-string banjo, an instrument that he did so much to popularize that it is sometimes referred to as a Pete Seeger Long Neck. His was inscribed with the slogan "This machine surrounds hate and forces it to surrender."

Raised in New York City, Mr. Seeger was the son of Juilliard School teachers—his mother a violinist, and his father a composer and musicologist. Mr. Seeger attended Harvard College on scholarship but dropped out to join an itinerant puppet troupe with leftist leanings.

Mr. Seeger's activism increased in the 1960s. He helped popularize "We Shall Overcome" as a protest anthem and wrote in a 1993 memoir that he had changed the song from the original "We Will Overcome."

The hard-touring musician became one of the most visible folk singers in the world, lending his voice to any number of causes with his belief that a song could change the world. In 2011, he helped lead an Occupy Wall Street march.

He lived for many years in a log cabin he built on land he bought during the first flush of the Weavers' success, overlooking the Hudson River. In the 1960s, inspired by Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*, Mr. Seeger led the Clearwater campaign, an effort to clean up the river that became a model for grass-roots environmental activism.

He said he was skeptical of the many awards he had garnered in recent decades. "I'm too respectable now," he told *The Wall Street Journal* in 2001.

—*The Wall Street Journal*, January 29, 2014, p. A 6

"I'm Still a Communist"— Pete Seeger

Born in Patterson, New York in May of 1919, Pete Seeger has had a long career as a musician, singer, and songwriter. He is also well known for his political activism and his pro-communist leanings.

Seeger's father, Charles, had been a music professor at the University of California at Berkeley until 1918, at which time he quit his teaching post because of the mounting tensions that his outspoken pacifism (vis a vis World War I) had created between him and his colleagues.

In 1932 Pete Seeger became a subscriber to the Communist monthly publication *The New Masses*. As a young teen he aspired to a career in journalism, but by age seventeen he had decided to pursue a music career instead.

Seeger attended Harvard University, but dropped out of college in 1939 during his sophomore year. From there, he worked briefly at the Library of Congress as an assistant at the Archive of the American Folk Song.

By 1940, Seeger was an accomplished musician who sang at many leftist political events. That year, he met the singer-songwriter Woody Guthrie at a benefit concert for migrant workers. Soon thereafter, he and Guthrie—along with such performers as Lee Hays, Millard Lampell, Sis Cunningham, Sonny Terry, Brownie McGhee, Burl Ives, and a few others—formed the Almanac Singers, one of the first folk music groups organized for mainly political purposes. During their brief time together (only about a year), they recorded some three-dozen songs, many of

which dealt with such themes as pacifism, labor unions, and the alleged mistreatment of workers by employers and the US government alike.

All of the Almanac Singers' members were involved with leftist political organizations, including the Communist Party (CP). In 1941 (not long after the signing of the 1939 Nazi-Soviet Pact), they recorded a series of "Songs for John Doe," which echoed the CP's official positions and exhorted listeners to oppose American involvement in the war against Hitler's Germany. The group performed at many union meetings and fundraising events for CP front groups.

In 1942 Seeger formally joined the Communist Party. A staunch defender of the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, he saw himself as one of the Party's "artists in uniform" whose activism was rooted in the notion that "songs are weapons."

In 1945 Seeger became the national director of People's Songs, Inc, an organization designed to "create, promote, and distribute songs of labor and the American People." Within a few years, the California Senate Fact-finding Committee reported that:

"People's Songs is a vital Communist front. . . one which has spawned a horde of lesser fronts in the fields of music, stage entertainment, choral singing, folk dancing, recording, radio transcriptions, and similar fields. It especially is important to Communist proselytizing and propaganda work because of its emphasis on appeal to youth, and because of its organization and technique to provide entertainment for organizations and groups as a smooth opening wedge for Marxist-Leninist-Stalinist propaganda."

Seeger parted ways with the Communist Party in 1950 and eventually renounced strict Stalinism, in favor of socialism and pro-labor activism. "I realized," says Seeger, "I could sing the same songs I sang, whether I belonged to the Communist Party or not, and I never liked the idea anyway of belonging to a secret organization."

In 1955 Seeger was subpoenaed by the House Un-American Activities Committee, whose questions about

his past Communist ties he answered evasively or not at all. The following year Seeger was indicted for contempt of Congress. In 1961 he was found guilty of that charge and was sentenced to ten years in prison, though in 1962 his conviction was overturned on a technicality.

In the 1960s Seeger was deeply involved in the civil rights movement and its hallmark demonstrations. His musical interpretation of an old spiritual, which he called "We Shall Overcome," became a signature song of the movement. The song was played at the founding meeting of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1960. In subsequent years, Seeger would perform benefit concerts on SNCC's behalf.

Historian Ronald Radosh writes: "Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Seeger called for peace, peaceful co-existence between the United States and the Soviet Union, singing songs like "Put My Name Down," "Brother, Where Do I Sign?"—a ballad in favor of the Soviet Union's phony international peace petition that favored unilateral disarmament by the West while leaving the Soviet atomic stockpile intact. He would sing and give his support to peace rallies and marches covertly sponsored by the Soviet Union and its Western front groups and dupes—while leaving his political criticism only for the United States and its defensive actions during the Cold War."

Seeger was an opponent of America's involvement in the Vietnam War. He similarly opposed the US military campaigns and weapons buildup during the Reagan years of the Cold War. He supported the Nuclear Freeze Movement of the 1980s—a Soviet-sponsored initiative that would have frozen Soviet nuclear and military superiority in place and would have rendered Reagan unable to close that gap to any appreciable degree.

Seeger has used his status as a folk icon to lend support to a number of leftwing causes and initiatives. In 1999, along with Ed Asner and Ossie Davis, Seeger served as an Advisory Board Member of Mumia 911, a group of artists and performers that opposed the execution of convicted cop-killer Mumia Abu Jamal. The organization depicted Mumia's case as an admixture of multiple elements: "racism, the death penalty, police brutality,

Founded in 1953, the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade, under the leadership of Dr. Fred C. Schwarz (1913-2009) has been publishing a monthly newsletter since 1960. *The Schwarz Report* is edited by Dr. David A. Noebel and Dr. Michael Bauman and is offered free of charge to anyone asking for it. The Crusade's address is PO Box 129, Manitou Springs, CO 80829. Our telephone number is 719-685-9043. All correspondence and tax-deductible gifts (CACC is a 501C3 tax-exempt organization) may be sent to this address. You may also access earlier editions of *The Schwarz Report* and make donations at www.schwarzreport.org. Permission to reproduce materials from this Report is granted provided that the article and author are given along with our name and address. Our daily blog address is www.thunderontheright.wordpress.com.

incarceration of Black and Latino youth, persecution of revolutionaries, and government suppression of dissent.” “We are building a culture of resistance to stop the killing of Mumia Abu-Jamal,” said Mumia 911, “and to transform the reactionary political climate in which those clamoring for his execution have thrived.”

In 2000 Seeger was a signatory to a political advertisement in the *New York Times* calling for an immediate end to America’s economic sanctions against Iraq. The ad charged that the US was responsible for “killing . . . over one million Iraqis, mostly children under five.” Fellow signers included Rosie O’Donnell, Thomas Gumbleton, Daniel Berrigan, Philip Berrigan, Ed Asner, Mike Farrell, William Sloane Coffin, Rev. James Lawson, Tim Robbins, Susan Sarandon, Joan Baez, Richard Dreyfuss, Liam Neeson, Martin Sheen, Ramsey Clark, Howard Zinn, and Noam Chomsky.

In 2002 Seeger was a signatory to the “Statement of Conscience” crafted by Not In Our Name, a project of C. Clark Kissinger’s Revolutionary Communist Party. This document condemned not only the Bush administration’s “stark new measures of repression,” but also its “unjust, immoral, illegitimate, [and] openly imperial policy towards the world.”

In the months prior to the 2003 war in Iraq, Seeger appeared as a guest speaker and performer at numerous peace rallies across the United States. He supported the activities of such high-profile anti-war leaders as Medea Benjamin of Global Exchange and Leslie Cagan of United For Peace and Justice.

In 2003 Seeger endorsed a statement condemning the Smithsonian Institution’s plan to exhibit the Enola Gay, the B-29 Superfortress used in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. He and his fellow 250+ signers—among whom were Noam Chomsky, Martin Sheen, Norman Lear, and Oliver Stone—were opposed to the aircraft being regarded in a “celebratory” manner.

Seeger is a National Advisory Board member of the Disarm Education Fund, which seeks “to ban all private ownership of handguns.” Other board members include: Robert Schwartz, Aris Anagnos, Ed Asner, Mario Obledo, Michael Ratner, Dave Dellinger, Martin Sheen, Spike Lee, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Ramsey Clark, and Howard Zinn.

Between 1993 and 2006, Seeger made \$3,700 in campaign contributions to political candidates, \$800 of which went to Independents and \$2,900 to Democrats, most notably Maurice Hinchey and Bernie Sanders.

As documented by Francis X. Gannon in the *Biographical Dictionary of the Left*, Seeger has been affiliated—as an entertainer, member, sponsor, instructor, or contributor—with a long list of Communist groups and fronts during his life. Among these are: the American Peace Mobilization; the American Youth Congress; the Communist Party; American Youth for Democracy; the Council on African Affairs; the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief; the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship; the Civil Rights Congress; the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born [Americans]; the Committee for a Democratic Far Eastern Policy; the Jefferson School of Social Science; Veterans Against Discrimination of Civil Rights Congress; *New Masses*; *Daily World*; the Labor Youth League; the California Labor School; the National Lawyers Guild; Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade; the Committee for the First Amendment; the American Peace Crusade; the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee; and the National Committee to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Today, Seeger speaks plainly about his former involvement with the Communist Party and admits some regrets. “My father,” he has said, “. . . got me into the Communist movement. He backed out around ’38. I drifted out in the ’50s. I apologize for following the party line so slavishly, for not seeing that Stalin was a supremely cruel misleader.”

Still, Seeger acknowledges his support of Marxist principles. “I still call myself a communist,” he said in 1995, “because communism is no more what Russia made of it than Christianity is what the churches make of it.”

In 2000, Seeger reiterated: “I am still a Communist.” And in an interview with *Mother Jones* magazine four years later, he elaborated: “I’m still a communist, in the sense that I don’t believe the world will survive with the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer.”

Seeger died on January 27, 2014.

—*DiscoverTheNetworks.org*, January 30, 2014



Don’t miss a minute of the news and analysis by David Noebel.

Check out our blog at:

www.thunderontheright.wordpress.com