

Pathfinder

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No. 1 Comrade

Spitting defiance, chubby, bespectacled little Communist Gerhard Eisler was finally cornered.

Identified by FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover, reformed ex-*Daily Worker* editor Louis Budenz, and others as the kingpin of international communism in the U.S., Eisler was haled before the House Un-American Activities committee. But, defiant to the last, he refused to take the oath before reading a statement.

Refusing to hear that statement, the committee asked the Justice Department to charge Eisler with: (1) Contempt, (2) perjury, (3) conspiracy to overthrow the Government, (4) evasion of income tax, and (5) falsification of passport.

New Try. Eisler was chucked back to Ellis Island, under guard. However the Justice Department acts, the House committee will not be satisfied with a mere deportation order. If Eisler isn't prosecuted, the committee will try again to make him testify as an enemy alien.

After Eisler's blowoff, a parade of witnesses piled up damning testimony. Dramatically, Eisler's own sister, Ruth Fischer, called him a "complete terrorist" and "a real danger" to both America and his native Germany. He got orders for his "dirty work" straight from Moscow.

William Nowell, Georgia-born Negro who studied in Moscow how to be a Communist organizer in Detroit, said he knew Eisler in both cities, under a variety of names, including "Brown" and "Edwards."

"By virtue of his position as Comintern representative in the U.S.," said Hoover, "Eisler, or 'Edwards' was, of course, actually the liaison between the Comintern and the authorities in Moscow and the Communist party, U.S.A."

But, from a Federal jail in New York, Eisler whined:

"I am an Austrian Communist, a political refugee, wanting to go home."