



HAROLD E. STASSEN

on

**"America Versus
Communism in
One World"**

EXCERPTS FROM ADDRESS OF HAROLD E. STASSEN OVER THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING SYSTEM ON MONDAY, JULY 14TH ,1947, ORIGINATING IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

Good evening fellow citizens:—

It is more clear than ever today that there will be a continuing major competition and clash of economic systems and of ideologies between Russia and the United States. It is the greatest competition of systems of all history. We must recognize this fact and seek to understand just what it means. The hope of mankind is that a decision may be reached on a basis of a competition of economic systems and of ideas and not through a resort to force.

Faith in American System

I have abiding faith in the rightness and the strength of the fundamental concepts of our American system, with individual freedom of men and women, economic freedom as well as social and civil and religious freedom, and with respect for the personal dignity of a human being.

I have deep confidence in our modern American capitalism and in our representative form of government of free citizens, as together constituting an excellent system to give expression to these basic concepts.

But I can also understand at least partially from the history of Russia and her Czars and her Revolutions and from the nature of her present form of government and economic system, why the rulers of Russia do not now share that faith and that confidence.

Developments Needed to Change Russian Policy

I do not believe that there will be a major change in Russian policy for the better, until the members of the all-powerful Politburo, including Generalissimo Stalin, become convinced of two things: First, that notwithstanding the strains of war and postwar conditions, our economic system can continue to function with high production and high standards of living and without a major economic crash and devastating depression; and second, that the Communist Party cannot successfully infiltrate and dominate or sabotage this country or any other one of the major powers of the world.

If they become convinced of these two things, both of which I am confident are true; and if, at the time they reach that realization, America is strong and resolute in its military position; then there is ground for hope of a major favorable change in Russian policies; and her friendly, vigorous people, who want peace as badly as any of us do, will then take their place in sharing constructive leadership in a peaceful, progressing world.

Three Steps Fundamental

On the basis of this analysis there are three fundamental developments of our American policy I urge tonight. First: that we move promptly and effectively to assure the success of the European program developed at Paris. Second, that we do not abandon the eight nations of Europe who did not accept the Paris conference invitations. Third, that we proceed promptly with an intelligent, coordinated program, to clear up Communist infiltration in the United States.

As the third phase of our prompt action, I consider it to be essential that we do develop and place into effect a well thought out, effective program, to not only decrease the infiltration of Communism in America, but also to make it very clear to Russia that this infiltration cannot succeed. If we permit the Politburo to miscalculate the extent of the effectiveness of Communist infiltration in America, this could be almost as serious to future world developments as an actual dangerous infiltration. With their very limited numbers Communists have already caused a disproportionate disruption in labor relations and in false propaganda within our country.

New York Communist Center

The center of Communist activity in the United States is New York. This is the location of their publication, "The Daily Worker." It is their headquarters. It has been revealed that it was the scene of the activities of Gerhart Eisler, recently convicted key communist. Officially reported facts show that a disproportionately high percentage of the known enrolled membership of the Communist Party is in New York. In fact, according to official government reports, 40% of the known enrolled Communist members of the entire United States are in New York. Most of the serious inroads in organized labor by the Communist Party stems from New York. It should be recognized of course that the fact that New York is a news and communication and trade center and a gateway from and to Europe has made it especially attractive for concentrated effort by the Communists.

Needed, and needed badly, is a vigorous, coordinated, and comprehensive bi-partisan program developed and put into effect through the cooperation of the President and the Attorney General of the United

States, the Governor and the Attorney General of the State of New York, the Mayor and the Prosecutor of the City of New York, to clear up this center of Communist activity.

Twelve Steps to Clear Up Communist Infiltration

I suggest these twelve specific steps as the most effective way of clearing Communist infiltration:

ONE—Expose thoroughly the identity of all known Communists and “fellow travelers.” Give the exact evidence of their connection. Some of the press has made an excellent start.

TWO—Insist that they stand up and be counted and speak out in their genuine capacity, that they do not hide behind false fronts, false names, or false issues.

THREE—Prosecute them vigorously for their violations of law with the effective cooperation of Federal, State and local governments, making certain that the people understand the nature of the violations so that they are not made martyrs.

FOUR—Have basic faith in the American working people and keep them fully informed of the facts.

FIVE—Meet squarely through frank discussion on the merits, the issues the Communists raise.

SIX—Move continually to correct deficiencies, maladjustments, or evils which they point out in our American social, economic, or political rights.

SEVEN—Expose the unsound and disruptive proposals that they make.

EIGHT—Urge our fellow citizens to refuse to associate with them in organizations, insisting that the Communists either be expelled or else the citizens who do not wish to follow their line withdraw and label the organization as a definite front.

NINE—Do not lightly use the charge of “Communist” against anyone unless we are certain of the evidence, then present the evidence with the charge.

TEN—None of them should be permitted on public payrolls, Federal, State or local.

ELEVEN—See to it that the members of labor organizations have a chance to vote by secret ballot on their own officers so that the workers can remove union officials who are exposed and proven to be Communists.

TWELVE—Take all these actions with complete respect for civil liberties and for legal rights.

By this approach I am confident that not only the influence of Communists in America would be sharply decreased but it will also soon become evident to the members of the Politburo in Russia that **Communists cannot successfully infiltrate or subvert or sabotage the American political or economic system.**

Plan Worked in Minnesota

I am confident of the effectiveness of this twelve-point approach. It worked in Minnesota. In 1937 and 1938 Minnesota had one of the centers of Communist activity in the United States. Minnesota then had more than its share of labor violence due in part to their influence. A third political party captured State control and Communist “fellow travelers” moved into key positions. Our Republi-

can Party took a direct position in the first campaign of November, 1938, that we would clear them out, would not permit them on public payrolls, and constructively would seek the cooperation of the working people to decrease their influence in organized labor. With the cooperation of Federal and local governments we were able to make a sharp change in their disruptive practices in labor and in political and social events. The third political party was defeated and eliminated. Within a few years, with the active assistance of the loyal organized labor men of the State and an alert citizenry, the situation was greatly improved.

This program should not be approached on a basis of any hysteria. It should be carried on with full recognition and respect for civil rights and liberties. But it is important, not simply because of the dangers of their activities, but because of the even greater dangers in the world situation if we do not make it clear to the Politburo in Russia that Communists cannot successfully infiltrate in America.

Prompt Action Needed

I emphasize these major developments of our policy in the world economic field and on the domestic subversive front because I believe prompt action is needed. We must constantly keep in mind that physically and geographically and scientifically this is one world. There are and there will be sharp competitions and conflicts and clashes of ideas, of economic systems, of social orders. But the world cannot be successfully divided. **If we consistently and fairly present and advocate the dynamic ideas of individual freedom and human dignity on which our America is based, then I have a sober optimism that we can win peace and plenty and freedom for ourselves and for others in the years ahead.**

Prepared by Minnesota Republican
State Central Committee, 1215 Pioneer
Bldg., St. Paul 1, Minn.





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