

EXCERPTS FROM STATEMENT BY

IRA DeA. REID TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born

The only associations I can recall ever having with this organization were during the period 1930-1936, especially 1930-1934, when I was writing my doctoral dissertation on the problems of West Indian immigration. I was referred to that organization by the Bureau of Immigration of the Department of Labor. I had no reason for believing, or any occasion for discovering or determining the "Communistic" nature of the organization while I was collecting and analyzing the qualitative and quantitative data that organization made available to me.

Southern Negro Youth Congress

I became a member of the Advisory Committee of this organization at the behest of Dr. F. D. Patterson, Principal of Tuskegee Institute, the Committee's Chairman, in 1937 or 1938. So far as I knew the Committee was to be called upon to advise the young people on ways and means for promoting the SNYC program for increased social programs and civil rights for Negroes in the South. As an educator, citizen, and a Negro living in the South I approved of such an effort through the democratic means I consistently expressed. I did not attend any of the organization's meetings. I do not remember ever having contributed to its financial support. My connections with the organization ended in the summer of 1941 or 1942 when the SNYC held a seminar on the campus of Atlanta University where I was a teacher, and at which I spoke on "Race and Law in the South." The association ended because of my belief, which was stated to the SNYC executive, Louis Burnham, that the SNYC was unrealistic in its approach to civil rights in the South and was making martyrs of its young members by having them engage in crusades for which they were not prepared and which had little meaning for the Negro's welfare in that region. Because I did not believe in that sort of exploitation (I suppose) I was never asked to do anything with or for the SNYC after that time.

Jefferson School of Social Science

I have had no connections of any sort with this school, nor do I know anything of its activities beyond what has appeared in official reports of the government and in the daily press.

National Council of Arts, Sciences, and Professions

This organization has asked me to speak at several meetings. On two occasions I accepted the invitation to speak on professional subjects only. On October 9, 1948 I spoke at a Conference on Academic Freedom in New York City, speaking on the subject "Discrimination and the Quota System." My draft of that speech is attached. When later the same persons asked me to participate in the Cultural and Scientific Conference for World Peace, and the pattern of its support as well as its Communist identification were