



## HEARD ON THE PARTY LINE

THE proletarian Pegasus of the Communist conspiracy begot two unique literary heroes in past weeks, namely Harvey Matusow and Aristophanes. The former, a hastening Pilate, asked what is truth and a Federal judge gave him three years in the pokey to sweat out the answer. The Greek, dead more than 2,000 years, seems destined for a longer run in the *Daily Worker*.

This publication, in adopting Aristophanes as its own, defended the poet in no uncertain terms against what the *Worker* termed were assaults by the U.S. Post Office. Seems like the mailmen in California held up a volume of "Lysistrata" that had been shipped in from Australia. This aroused a great commotion in Beverly Hills and was quickly transformed into a civil liberties issue by David Platt, the Communists' cultural commissar.

"I suspect," trumpeted Platt, "that the real reason for clamping down on 'Lysistrata' is not its alleged obscenity, but its powerful anti-war theme . . . the banning is an offense that ranks with the suppression of the Bible by Justinian . . ."

Comrade David drops defense of

the Bible at this point and says that the Post Office cossacks put Aristophanes on ice because he was an "anti-war" poet. Those of us who remember the hilarious pages of "Lysistrata" and the determined Athenian women may wonder if the pontifical Platt read the same play.

The charges of obscenity, says Platt, "came from the arrogant men in important posts who regard 'peace' as a dirty word." The *Worker* ignores the fact that the Post Office gendarmes didn't object to the comedy but the zippy illustrations in the seized volume. The tome, incidentally, has since been released.

Various historians all agree that the Greek was a conservative who frowned on the liberalism that eventually led Athens to destruction. But he also had a keen sense of humor, a characteristic unknown to the Communist conspiracy, and somewhere in his pagan retreat Aristophanes must be guffawing at the *Daily Worker's* bid to deify him along with Harvey, the lad who rode to Marxist sainthood on a lie. H. R.



# *The Counter- Attack*

*By*  
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**B**ATTLE-WEARY anti-Communists are now learning, with grim emphasis, that their victory is not yet won. The enemy is alive, and threatening.

Signs are multiplying that the discredited old Russia-firsters who disappeared into their storm cellars in 1948 and 1949, on the rebound of the Hiss exposé, are back in action. Voices which were believed to be permanently silenced are again sounding off. Sincere anti-Communists are being held up to public pillorying. Bogus anti-Communists are regaining the center of the pub-

licity stage. We are in the presence of the counter-attack.

On the extreme Left, clouded figures which were driven into eclipse during the successive waves of Congressional investigations are defiantly re-emerging. Owen Lattimore is demanding a passport to go overseas to interpret America to the foreigner on the lecture platform. William H. Taylor, named by Miss Bentley as a member of the Silvermaster Red ring, is loudly demanding vindication. David N. Leff, a Federal Loyalty Board-defier

who was finally dropped from UNESCO by a reluctant Director Luther H. Evans, is now emphatically demanding reinstatement.

Mrs. Annie Lee Moss, named as a Communist Party member by an FBI undercover agent, was restored to her Defense Department job after the civil liberties heat had been turned on Secretary Wilson, and her counsel was elevated to a high District of Columbia job. Harvey S. Matusow, sensing greener fields on the Left than on the Right, is now conducting a one-man smear campaign against Roy M. Cohn,