

CHALLENGE TO SOCIALISM

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In Outrageous Move Truman Appoints Anna Rosenberg Assistant Secretary of Defense With complete disregard for the people's mandate, President Truman on November 9 announced he would appoint a

top New Dealer, Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg, to be Assistant Secretary of Defense. Despite the national repudiation of the New-Fair Deal at the polls, the President saw fit to make an interim appointment which surprised, shocked, and chagrined many persons. It was even more transparent that Defense Secretary George Marshall had had "Mrs. Fix-It," as she has been called, planted on his staff. *The Chicago Tribune* of November 13 suggests that Presidential adviser John R. Steelman, who had planned to go into business with Mrs. Rosenberg if Truman had been ousted in 1948, was really back of the appointment. He is said to have pulled a fast one on the President.

Fortunately Mrs. Rosenberg will have to be confirmed by the Senate Armed Services Committee and then by the Senate. Angry Americans who protested on November 7 against the foreign and domestic policies of this Administration may be expected to protest an appointment which is so clearly ill advised. Mrs. Rosenberg is unquestionably clever. She is a smart fixer and a master of billingsgate. As the United Mine Workers said, she is "an out-and-out Roosevelt politician." Crazy for power and short on education, she possesses some unworkable ideas about soldiers. Shamelessly self-seeking, she cheated the taxpayers for years and was finally exposed by Congress. She is not the type of person who should be permitted to hold this post at this perilous time in our history. The Senate should not strengthen the powerful New Deal Socialist ring comprising: Altmeyer, Cohen, Falk, Rosenberg, Keyserling, Rosenman, Kingsley, Boas, and Michael Davis.

United States Menaced Should Have only Most Trusted Persons in National Defense Jobs The United States is fighting for its very life. Every person selected for a high position in the Defense Department

should be chosen in the national interest. Every such person should be of unquestioned loyalty and integrity and should have a long record of unselfish public service. Every such person should be an American through and through. There is no place in the Defense Department for persons who have flirted with Communist collaborators and who have advocated the establishment of State Socialism in the United States.

Because of the seriousness of the times and the significance of this appointment, the Editor has prepared this statement especially for the use of the Senate of the United States. The facts cry out for Senate rejection of the Rosenberg appointment. They cry out, too, for a citizenry alert to weak links in the Defense Department.

Anna Marie Lederer was born in Budapest, Hungary, on July 19, 1900. (The dates of her birth, entry into the United States, and marriage do not agree in different biographies.) Her father, Albert Lederer, a furniture manufacturer, was ruined financially when a large order was cancelled. He migrated to this country with his wife and two daughters in 1910 or 1912. They settled in the Bronx, New York City, where Mr. Lederer became a fur trimmer. Anna was not quite 18 when she married Julius (Mike) Rosenberg, a rug dealer. She was naturalized in 1919.

In later years a writer described the young Mrs. Rosenberg as a "Bronx high-school girl with a fierce appetite for power." At Wadleigh High School she led a group of students to City Hall, demonstrating her qualities of leadership and her ability to talk fast.

Mrs. Fix-It Arranged Unethical Deal With Social Security's Arthur J. Altmeyer Mrs. Rosenberg was in her early twenties when she decided to crash the gates of Tammany. Barging into a ward politic-

ian's sanctum, "the tough James J. Hagan Tammany Club," on Manhattan's West Side, she made a hit by talking back to the boss. The elder Hagan hired her to run the aldermanic campaign of his son Walter. For the ensuing 10 years (1922-1932) Mrs. Rosenberg ran political campaigns and organized Jewish philanthropies. In this way she came to know Judge Anna Kross, Mrs. Leo Sulzberger, Mrs. Henry Moskovitz, and the wealthy businessman, Nathan Straus, Jr.

Straus ran for alderman in 1933. Mrs. Rosenberg handled his campaign. He lost. But the New Deal was sweeping the country. Straus was appointed director of the National Recovery Administration in New York. He chose Mrs. Rosenberg as his assistant. A year later he resigned and she succeeded him—not without some fixing. The job was short-lived. NRA was declared unconstitutional. The New York office closed in 1936. In May of that year Mrs. Rosenberg was named director of Regional Office No. 2 of the new Social Security Board.

It is significant that Mrs. Rosenberg was not qualified by either education or experience for the \$7,500 job into which she stepped. She was a high school graduate without administrative experience. But by playing her political cards shrewdly, she overcame her educational and professional shortcomings. And she was clever—in a devious sort of way.

Six years after this Social Security appointment was made, the House Appropriations Committee summoned Mrs. Rosenberg to Washington to explain the deal she had made in 1936 with Arthur J. Altmeyer, then chairman of the Social Security Board. She testified she had developed a lucrative public relations business prior to 1936 and that her private income had exceeded \$20,000 a year. When Altmeyer had asked her to become a regional director she had said she would accept if she could continue her consultant work while in Federal employ. Altmeyer had agreed. She admitted that she received \$20,000 a year from Macy's-Bamberger's, \$6,000 from Nelson Rockefeller, and \$2,500 from I. Miller Shoe Company in addition to \$7,500 from the Government-a total of \$36,000. She testified that these were her only clients.

New Dealer Called on Congressional Carpet In 1942 and Severely Censured for Schemes Representative Engel (R., Mich.) questioned Mrs. Rosenberg at length in May 1942 when the 1943 Social Security ap-

propriation bill was up for consideration. She claimed she gave 100 per cent of her time to her Government job. Nelson Rockefeller, she said, paid her \$6,000 for taking luncheon with him occasionally; she did not devote any regular time to his work. Macy's-Bamberger's paid \$20,000 a year for some Saturday afternoon consultations with her. It sounded fishy. She asserted \$28,500 was the total of her private earnings, but a feature writer later said: "Insiders knew that the addition of retainers not advertised in the congressional wet wash would have made the total of her yearly earnings nearer \$60,000, plus the Government pay check." Did she lie to a Congressional committee?

Although she claimed she gave full time to her Government job, she had previously let the cat out of the bag by telling how she handled so many jobs at once. In an interview reported in *The New York Times* of February 22, 1942, and read into the appropriations hearings on May 5, 1942, by Mr. Engels, she said:

"I delegate authority to other people in whom I have confidence and who do not come running to me with every problem."

Mrs. Rosenberg was in charge of 22 field offices for the Social Security Board. Some members of the committee thought the responsibilities of such a job would preclude carrying on major consultant jobs to the tune of \$28,500 on the side. Furthermore, the point was made that it was highly improper to take large retainers from employers who came under the jurisdiction of the very law she was administering.

Altmeyer backed Mrs. Rosenberg to the limit. His testimony showed he was quite as lacking in a sense of public responsibility to a Federal office as was Mrs. Rosenberg.

The Senate Appropriations Committee thought the Altmeyer-Rosenberg deal so irregular they added the following amendment to the bill:

"No part of the appropriation contained herein under the heading 'Social Security Board' shall be expended for the salary of any person who directly or indirectly is receiving compensation for services from any person, corporation, or association employing any person enrolled under the Social Security Act."

New Dealers Condoned Altmeyer-Rosenberg Deal and Gave her War Manpower Post The amendment censuring the unprecedented activities of Mrs. Rosenberg was passed by the Senate on June 26, 1942,

without a dissenting vote. Presumably Mrs. Fix-It got busy. It is said she rushed to the President, offering to resign. He is reported to have given her a dose of "Roosevelt soothing syrup." Pressure presumably was applied to the House-Senate conferees on the appropriation bill, for on June 29 they struck out the Senate-passed amendment (House Report No. 2031 on H.R. 7181, p. 4, 1942). They did state, however, that the case under question was "subject to severe criticism" and they admonished "the Social Security Board and all other organizations provided for in the bill to correct this and similar practices."

Despite this public censure, Mrs. Rosenberg clung to all her jobs, public and private, until September 18, 1942, when she released to the press a letter she had written to Altmeyer on August 21. Claiming to have been guilty of no wrong doing, she glossed over the fact that Congress had censured her. Asserting she had not broken any law, she said that Senator Pat Mc Carran (D., Nev.) and Representative Butler B. Hare (D., S.Car.) had both told Paul V. McNutt, chairman of War Manpower Commission, that her outside activities had not interfered with her Government work. Her letter was a masterpiece of fixing and of justification of the unjustifiable.

Mrs. Rosenberg seemed to miss the whole point. She did not see, or chose to ignore, the fact that public morality and ethics transcend the convenient dicta of politicians and bureaucrats of easy conscience. Because Roosevelt, McCarran, Hare, and Altmeyer had condoned her misconduct in public office, she acted as though she should be excused. They were all the same breed of cats. The fact remained she had delegated the responsibilities of her job to subordinates who had to be paid by the taxpayers to do the work she was hired to do. And she had accepted large fees from employers subject to the law she was administering.

Belatedly, in September 1942, Mrs. Rosenberg resigned from her Social Security post and gave up her numerous consultant jobs for the duration. Proclaiming she hadn't "an ambition in the world to hold public office," she became regional director in War Manpower Commission at a salary of \$8,000—to help win the war.

Blue Stocking Fixer For Millionaires is Unacceptable to Some Top Labor Leaders But all was not as altruistic as Mrs. Rosenberg would have liked the public to believe. Josef Israels, in an arti-

cle in the Saturday Evening Post of October 16, 1943, said: "Undismayed by criticism, Mrs. Rosenberg went on her way, poking, prodding, pleading, ordering and influencing everything and everybody in sight. Today Mrs. Rosenberg... is more powerful than ever before. No one who knows her, doubts that in maneuvering to win this battle she will ruthlessly and effectively put many more of her deft fingers into this richest of political pies, the War Manpower Commission."

As a matter of fact, in those days McNutt appeared to be the man of the hour. He was being mentioned as a possible Presidential candidate for 1944. Mrs. Rosenberg, with her customary foresight, attached herself to McNutt, without, however, dropping the line to the White House. She called on Roosevelt about once a week, according to Israels. Partly at her suggestion the President set up a Victory Labor Board and named her secretary. This infuriated the United Mine Workers who thought she would try to have herself appointed Secretary of Labor if Roosevelt won a fourth term in 1944. They blasted her in a bitter article in their Journal of November 1.

Not only did Mrs. Rosenberg run afoul of John L. Lewis, but she clashed with CIO's Sidney Hillman. She and Hillman had been friends at one time, but in the mad scramble for power they fell out. It is said Hillman "coveted the potent War Manpower post which Paul McNutt finally snagged. He sought Mrs. Rosenberg's support with the President, but she avoided committing herself." Hillman is reported to have turned the Congressional spotlight on her shady deal with Altmeyer.

In view of the fact that Hillman had such extensive Communist connections and even received Lenin's blessing in 1922, it is interesting to note Mrs. Rosenberg's friendship for him.

She had other contacts that led to Russia back in the 20's. When Mrs. Rosenberg was getting her start in Tammany it was Communist collaborator Judge Anna Kross who recommended her to Mrs. Moskovitz for a job. Judge Kross has a disgraceful record of long association with Communists Joseph R. Brodsky and Bela V. Dodd as well as with such Communist collaborators as Jacob S. Potofsky and Frederick L. Schuman.

Mrs. Rosenberg has Customary New Deal Share of Communist-Front Connections The House Un-American Activities Committee notes that as far back as 1930 Anna Rosenberg signed a petition against

anti-Communist activities of the New York police. The protest grew out of a Red riot incited by the well known Communists William Z. Foster and Israel Amter. A mass meeting, 35,000 strong, had assembled in Union Square. Women and children sang the Communist Internationale. Communist leaders turned the meeting into a wild riot. Scores were injured. Foster, then as now, the leader of the Communist Party, was thrown into jail and held without bail. Four of his companions were imprisoned and their bail was set so high they had to remain locked up.

At once the Communistic John Reed Club rose to the defense of the trouble makers. Reed had helped to organize the Communist Party in this country in 1919. He had returned to Russia where a short time later he died. His ashes were buried in the Kremlin. Clubs were formed in his memory in this country.

On May 19, 1930, there appeared in *The New York Times* a statement from the John Reed Club protesting the arrest and imprisonment of the rioting Communists of Union Square. Among the signers was Anna Rosenberg.

In the 1930's a Communist, Arthur Kallett, founded a series of "consumer" organizations constituting a "solar system" of Communist fronts. There were 9 such organizations, including the Consumers National Federation. Communist Earl Browder in 1939 identified this Federation as a "transmission belt" or "organization through which the Communist Party extends its influence and ideology to groups which are broader than the party itself."

Susan Jenkins, a former employee of the Communist Daily Worker, organized the Consumers National Federation. Among its sponsors were the Communists Bela V. Dodd, Arthur Kallett, Israel Amter, and Michael Quill together with such veteran fellow travelers as Mary Dublin (who later married Leon Keyserling, now economic adviser to the President), Stanley M. Isaacs, and Max Perlow. Anna M. Rosenberg joined with this group to sponsor one of the Federation's conferences.

Mrs. Fix-It Helps Davis, Boas, and Ewing Nationalize American Medicine Mrs. Rosenberg is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Committee for the Nation's Health, Inc., the

most powerful nongovernmental lobby for the nationalization of medicine. Other board members are such well known fellow travelers as Michael M. Davis, Ernst P. Boas, M.D., Mary Dublin Keyserling, Theodore Sanders, M.D., and Abe Fortas. Honorary vice presidents of the CNH include Chester Bowles, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Bishop Francis McConnell, and Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Martin Popper has been a member of the CNII. He was one of the 1949 vice presidents of the National Lawvers Guild, described as the "legal bulwark of the Communist Party." John Abt, Lee Pressman of the CIO, and Nathan Witt, all associated with the National Lawvers Guild, were members of the Washington Communist cell which included Alger Hiss. The Pressman-Altmeyer-Rosenberg ring should be investigated.

Dr. Boas, himself a member of at least 12 Communist-front organizations, is chairman of the Physicians Forum lobby cited as subversive by the Tenney Committee of California. Mary Dublin Keyserling has a long subversive record.

Mrs. Rosenberg's assistant, Abe Savage, was called in by Oscar Ewing in 1948 to be an incorporator of the National Health Assembly.

We submit that a woman with such a record as Mrs. Rosenberg's has no place in our Defense Department. It is outrageous for President Truman to foist on this country at this time a woman who has placed personal ambition and greed before devotion to her high public office. She represents the vested interests of Anna Rosenberg and the CIO but not the larger interests of the Nation. She was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of Defense on November 15. Her appointment can be blocked by the Senate and by a Nation-wide protest of angry Americans. Her fitness will be passed on by the Armed Services Committee:

Democrats
Millard E. Tydings, Md.
Richard B. Russell, Ga.
Harry F Byrd, Va.
Virgil Chapman, Ky.
Lyndon B. Johnson, Tex.
Estes Kefauver, Tenn
Lester C. Hunt, Wyo.

Republicans
Styles Bridges, N.H.
Chan Gurney, S. Dak.
Leverett Saltonstall, Mass.
Wayne Morse, Oregon
William F. Knowland, Calif.
Harry F. Cain, Wash.

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