

Clark Denies Foreign Control Myth about CP

Joseph Clark, who resigned last week from the Communist Party and from his post as Daily Worker foreign editor, flatly denied Tuesday night any charge that the party is foreign-controlled or connected with espionage.

Answering a series of questions from John Wingate on the latter's program, "Controversy" over Radio Station WOR, Clark said that "there is no organizational connection" between the Communist Party and the Soviet Union, as alleged in the loaded queries.

"The American Communist Party has been a separate entity, with its own activity, leadership and program," he said.

Wingate bore down hard on this issue and the question of espionage, both of which have been utilized by the press as an aftermath of Clark's resignation letter.

He asked Clark whether he knew Rudolf I. Abel, Jack and Myra Soble, all involved in espionage charges. Clark said he did not and added:

"The Communist Party was never connected with espionage."

Clark pointed out that Communist leader Eugene Dennis has been tried a number of times. "Never," he said, "has there been any suggestion by the government that Dennis has been connected with espionage or under foreign control." He pointed out that CP national committee members had been tried under the Smith Act but that the government had not even made any allegations of this nature.

He termed the Smith Act "thought control legislation" and declared, in answer to the stock question about forceful overthrow of the government.

"The party teaching emphasizes the possibility of the peaceful and democratic transition to socialism." He added that "books are not a conspiracy."

While repudiating the "espionage," "foreign control" and "conspiracy" myths about the party, Clark attacked the party, claiming that it was no longer an effective instrument for socialism, and that it was "discredited" and "isolated." He called for "new avenues" for the advance of socialism in the U.S.

At noon yesterday Clark issued a statement to the press charging that he had been accosted near his home by FBI agents.

"I wish to express my deepest resentment that a Federal police agency has seen fit to intrude into matters relating to my politics and ideas," he said. "This morning at about 9:30 a.m. two able-bodied young men shadowed my movements as I went about my chores, then accosted me in the street, introduced themselves as FBI agents, and from their opening remarks, indicated the desire to discuss political theory with me in their capacity as undercover federal police."

"There is nothing in American law or tradition which warrants this kind of political police activity. I'm sure most Americans would be happier if their tax money went to enforce federal court decisions in Arkansas and other states where the law is being flouted."