

**HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE
ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHT-FOURTH CONGRESS,
SECOND SESSION, MAY 23, 1956**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649098866

Hearing before the Committee on Un-American Activities house of representatives eight-fourth Congress, Second Session, May 23, 1956 by Various

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VARIOUS

**HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE
ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHT-FOURTH CONGRESS,
SECOND SESSION, MAY 23, 1956**

U.S. House

INVESTIGATION OF THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF
UNITED STATES PASSPORTS—PART 1

HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHTY-FOURTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

MAY 23, 1956

Printed for the use of the Committee on Un-American Activities

(INDEX IN PART 4 OF THIS SERIES)



UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1956

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COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PUBLIC LAW 601, 79TH CONGRESS

The legislation under which the House Committee on Un-American Activities operates is Public Law 601, 79th Congress (1946), chapter 753, 2d session, which provides:

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, * * **

PART 2—RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RULE X

SEC. 121. STANDING COMMITTEES

* * * * *
17. Committee on Un-American Activities, to consist of nine members.

RULE XI

POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

* * * * *
(q) (1) Committee on Un-American Activities.
(A) Un-American Activities.

(2) The Committee on Un-American Activities, as a whole or by subcommittee, is authorized to make from time to time, investigations of (i) the extent character, and objects of un-American propaganda activities in the United States, (ii) the diffusion within the United States of subversive and un-American propaganda that is instigated from foreign countries or of a domestic origin and attacks the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution, and (iii) all other questions in relation thereto that would aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation.

The Committee on Un-American Activities shall report to the House (or to the Clerk of the House if the House is not in session) the results of any such investigation, together with such recommendations as it deems advisable.

For the purpose of any such investigation, the Committee on Un-American Activities, or any subcommittee thereof, is authorized to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether or not the House is sitting, has recessed, or has adjourned, to hold such hearings, to require the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such books, papers, and documents, and to take such testimony, as it deems necessary. Subpoenas may be issued under the signature of the chairman of the committee or any subcommittee, or by any member designated by any such chairman, and may be served by any person designated by any such chairman or member.

RULES ADOPTED BY THE 84TH CONGRESS

House Resolution 5, January 5, 1955

* * * * *

RULE X

STANDING COMMITTEES

1. There shall be elected by the House, at the commencement of each Congress :

* * * * *

(q) Committee on Un-American Activities, to consist of nine members.

* * * * *

RULE XI

POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

* * * * *

17. Committee on Un-American Activities.

(a) Un-American Activities.

(b) The Committee on Un-American Activities, as a whole or by subcommittee, is authorized to make from time to time, investigations of (1) the extent, character, and objects of un-American propaganda activities in the United States, (2) the diffusion within the United States of subversive and un-American propaganda that is instigated from foreign countries or of a domestic origin and attacks the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution, and (3) all other questions in relation thereto that would aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation.

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INVESTIGATION OF THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF UNITED STATES PASSPORTS—Part I

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1956

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE OF UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES,
Washington, D. C.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Committee on Un-American Activities convened, pursuant to call, at 10 a. m., in the Caucus Room of the Old House Office Building, Hon. Francis E. Walter (chairman) presiding.

Committee members present: Representatives Francis E. Walter, of Pennsylvania (chairman), Morgan M. Moulder, of Missouri, Edwin E. Willis, of Louisiana, and Bernard W. Kearney, of New York.

Staff members present: Richard Arens, director, and Donald T. Appell, investigator.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will be in order.

The hearings which the Committee on Un-American Activities are beginning this morning deal with one of the most vital aspects of our entire security problem, the fraudulent procurement and misuse of American passports by persons in the service of the Communist conspiracy.

As a result of the investigations made by the committee, we are now able to document in great detail the procedures by which Communists and Communist Party sympathizers obtain passports in direct violation of American law. We can document fully how, by stealth, by concealment, and by misrepresentation, members of the Communist Party and adherents to the Communist conspiracy are able to travel abroad for purposes deliberately detrimental to the United States.

The committee has in its files hundreds of copies of fraudulent documents used by international Communist agents. These include false passport applications, false birth records, false naturalization certificates. In some cases, the purpose of the trip has been deliberately withheld; in other cases, passports have been issued to applicants who have used the identity of some other individual. Beyond this, the evidence in the possession of the committee includes records maintained by the Communist organizations themselves, proving the real use to which these passports have been put.

Under existing law, only nationals of the United States can obtain United States passports. However, leading Soviet espionage agents have received and used American passports. Some, like the notorious Gerhart Eisler, applied for them directly. Others have received them in Moscow or in other Communist espionage centers. Some of these individuals have had as many as three passports in their possession at the same time.