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# Calls Brooklyn College Hotbed Of Communism

## Thomas, of Dies Committee, Tells Bergen Legion 4th of Students and Faculty Are Partisans of Reds

*Special to the Herald Tribune*

ALLENDALE, N. J., July 30.—

Representative J. Parnell Thomas, Republican, of Allendale, and a member of the Dies Congressional Committee investigating the activities of Communists and Nazis in the nation, vigorously attacked today the Communist tendencies of a large proportion of the students and faculty of Brooklyn College and labeled three Works Progress Administration projects in New York and one Brooklyn high school "hotbeds" of Communism.

Mr. Thomas spoke at the closing session of the twelfth annual convention of the Bergen County American Legion, meeting this morning in the Allendale Grammar School. Himself a member of the Legion, Mr. Thomas congratulated the national commander, Daniel J. Doherty, for "putting up a grand fight" against Communism, and asserted that the reason the Legion is being attacked today is because those who attack it know "that it is one of the strongest bulwarks against Communism in the United States."

### Finds College One-Fourth Red

Mr. Doherty, in a recent lecture at Columbia University, attacked certain "red professors" who, he said, were giving Columbia a bad name. His address was construed as an answer to Dr. William Gellerman, of Northwestern University, who, under the auspices of Teachers College of Columbia, prepared a monograph in which he condemned the Legion as a Fascist pressure group in education.

The three W. P. A. projects which Mr. Thomas labeled hotbeds of Communism were the Federal Writers' projects, the Federal Art project and the Federal Theater project. The high school was Thomas Jefferson, Dumont and Pennsylvania Avenues, Brooklyn.

"Many think Communism and Nazism is the bunk," he said, "but I have come to realize during the last few weeks, as a member of the Dies Committee, that the question is not overdone. It is a real menace to America today and you will be surprised to know that 25 per cent of the pupils in Brooklyn College, which is part of the City College of New York, are either affiliated with or sympathetic to the Communist party and that 33 per cent of the professors of Brooklyn College are just as sympathetic as the students."

### Cites Dies Inquiry Figures

Mr. Thomas said his figures came from the Dies Committee investigation.

Dr. J. Iredell Wyckoff, state commander of the Legion, installed the following officers of the Bergen County Legion:

County commander, Raymond R. Roemer, of Ridgely; vice-commanders, Alfred Langenstein, of Leonia; Byron R. Christie, of Garfield; Jacques Hill, of River Edge, and Douglas C. Weaver, of East Rutherford; sergeant at arms, Leo Locasio, of Lodi; chaplain, the Rev. Edward S. Kirk, of Ridgewood; historian, Mrs. Emilie Cosgrove, of Rochelle Park; finance officer, Louis Nolan, of Ramsey; state executive committeeman, Moe Katzman, of Teaneck; trustees, Mr. Katzman, Ralph H. Knettle, of Hasbrouck Heights, and Marinus Van Stevanick, of Wyckoff.

### Aim Is Relief Not Politics

Paul Edwards, W. P. A. Administrator in charge of the three Federal projects which Mr. Thomas attacked, reached last night at his home in Englewood, N. J., said that the W. P. A. was not interested in finding out the political beliefs of its workers and that it was organized "on a strictly professional basis only."

He denied that there was any "social significance" attached by the W. P. A. to the creations of any of the projects and said that any such interpretations were the result of the demands of the sponsors of a particular project not of the supervisors. "All I'm interested in is hiring people in need of relief," he stated, "who are professionally skilled. And our union difficulties are ironed out as they are anywhere else."

Officials of Brooklyn College and of the Board of Education could not be reached for comment on Representative Thomas's charges.