Speech by Latter Trumbo Present A.S.P. menousip meeting - Som

vestigated industry in the United States --- an industry against which only one demagogic voice in Congress need be raised andx to make the American press roar and thunder for days upon end. Congressional investigations have persisted steadily and viciously over a period of almost ten years. During this period there have been other industries more richly meriting the attention of investigating committees --- industries manufactured faulty equipment which hundreds of Americans during the war; industries which have conspired to defraud the government on work contracts; industries which have sold poisonous and adulterated products to the population; industries which presently conspire a new kind of grand theft against men and women everywhere by insisting upon profits so fabulous that inflationxisxuponxesxxandxden seessimple the costs of food and general living have risen beyond any index point in our history.

True, there have been occasional murmurs in the press when a fraud has been discovered, a dangerous drug misadvertised, or a coal mine exploded through criminal negligence and killed several score workers. But such incidents are recorded and quickly forgotten. The campaign of reaction against my industry continues undiminished and rigorous throughout the That is because my industry---the motion picture industry---deals in ideas. And ideas can be dangerous, especially if they are ideas which look forward rather than back-Indeed, we live in a time when any idea is dangerous; ward. when, to use the words of a distinguished collegue, Mr. James Ketin McGuiness of the Motion Picture Alliance-for the Preservation of American ideals, we must not touch the minds of our Hollywood as the audience at all. Mr. McGuinness ranks in

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Goat for Hollywood's better dressed reactionaries, and/finger
man for the Thomas Un-American Committee.

man for the Thomas Un-American Committee. For years there has been a tendency to draw rate attacks of these intern committees according to the the regulat xac intelligence of their members, and therefore to shrug them off w as the work of morons and illiterates. We remember _when Shirley Temple_was_charged with being a Communist---and the whole country rocked with laughter at Martin Dies and his fellow buffoons. But when the industry found itself haled before Congress on the charge of war-mongering because it had dared make anti-Fascist films, the laughter thexbulloungerrandxingerrandship and thexbulloungerrand - 2005 We began to realize that the buffoons had power. cultural equipment still lagged behind the stone age were actually in a position to fill the nation's press with a the screen's right to speak out on any campaign a issue, no matter how trivial. By now there is no laughter The clowns have taken off their masks, and we see in the present committee 📂 the poisonous features of Fascism itself---the attack upon culture, the attack upon freedom of expression, the attack upon the worker, the sly and vicious anti-semitism, the bitter hatred of the Negro---even beyond that, the hatred of people themselves and of all who speak That is the point at which we have arrived today. for them. For the motion picture industry it has meant in the spread of malicious lies about its non the threat of economic reprisals at the box-office; resalted in a deep and

gnawing timidity -content; and if the drive persists and

is successful, it means that Hollywood will abandon thought

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altogether in its frame attempt to escape condemnation.

when that is accomplished the pictures will be stated content that the industry will be bankrupted at home and discredited that the industry will be bankrupted at home and discredited throughout the world. After the industry and to mantain its right to flee expression.

The present committee doesn't hesitate to use the content of th

outright indimidation in its investigation. It's whole purpose is to make people **feature**, for example, to be in such a place as this tonight. Recently two agents of the committee appeared at a local recording company with a demand that they be permitted to listen to the recording of Miss Katherine Hepburn's Wallace speech and take a transcript of it. But remember, recordings of this were permitted to do so. at stores Tens of thousands speech are on sale/all over Los Angeles. of copies of it have been printed in pamphlet form. The committee itself possessed in a copy of the speech. then, I did the committee's investigators take the trouble The reason is very clear. to go to the recording company? To intimidate the recording company. To intimidate Miss Hepburn. To intimidate you.

Henry Steele Commager, professor of history at Columbia University, has written an article in the September issue of Harper's magazine, in which he discusses the new concept of / American loyalty, as defined by the various government tests and the UnAmerican committee. He concludes that this new loyalty is, beyond anything else, conformity. If you don't conform, you are disingui arbitrarily cast out. I quote from (there, the ren sumlan logally) him: "It is the uncritical and unquestioning acceptance of America as it is --- the political institutions, the social relationships, the economic practices. It rejects inquiry into the race question or socialized medicine, or public



housing, or into the wisdom or validity of our foreign policy. It regards as farticularly heinous any challenge to what is called 'the system of free enterprise', identifying that system with Americanism. It abandons evolution, repudiates the once popular concept of progress, and regards America as a finished product, perfect and complete. . . . It is satisfied with membership in respectable organizations, and, as it assumes that every member of a liberal organization is a Communist, concludes to that every member of a conservative one is a true American."

Apropos of this, the I think it will interes you all that a county employee was recently discharged hand under the new loyalty proceedings. crime which cost him his 🚧 was membership in the Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts Scientists and If this makes you shudder, consider the Professions. traix prison sentence recently meted out to Howard Fast for his work in the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee; or the case of Carl Marzani who resigned from the OSS after four years of wartime service, and enteredithe made a film preside union after party no relines, he was wested, trief and educational work. sentenced to three years in the Federal Penitentiary. Does it remind you of other artists . . . in other countries . . . at other times?

A necessary corrolary of the campaign to conform, the campaign against thought itself, have the campaign of nationalist self-glorification. We are not only the best country in the world, but we are also the smartest and our young men are the strongest



and our young women are the prettiest and/our cats are the fatestermands are corrected universities are the finest: our roads the longest; our formxbusinessxmen industry the most generous; our government the most perfect. No one else in the world has got what we call "know how, "--- and if they don't have it, it's their own fault because they aren't Americans. campaign reaches into our schools, replaces offending textbooks with those which carry the new American credo, and the first teacher who lifts her voice in defense of truth---or even modesty---finds her home invaded by we process servers, and her career smashed in an orgy of unrestrained calumny and Beyond this, we proclaim to the world in speech after statement and statement after speech, that ours is the one democracy and the only democracy --- that the rest of the world must accept our spiritual leadership and emulate our economic system --- and they if they resist this generously offered salvation they should do well to heed our world-wide air bases and our swift new B-32's and the atom bomb with which we have killed over a hundred thousand people in the flick of an eyelash. This is the new credo at work . . . the dim stirrings of the folk meth and the blood myth . . . not idle boasting maker as it was in our young nationhood, but now a snarl, and the an assertion of fact, a corrupting myth when all ge, a menacing megalomania, name

An American!" we chant at massed rallies, "The American Way" we blare in our headlines---and with each arrogant boast we spit in the face of the world and they remember we have the bomb.

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It is only natural that whole the country is being taught the significance of its blood-superiority and its world mission, the dissenters must be hounded. And one gos for as to need not ments dissent. One has only to question, to ask. those who question most are publicly are those who are And of all the creative arts, engaged in the creative arts. motion pictures have the widest audience. Hence Hollywood first victim of attack. That is because Hollywood, for all its grossness and vulgarity---a grossness and wulgarity which I am bound to assert also exists in other art forms---Hollywood has dared to make occasional fine films --- films which were anti-Facist, films which apoke for the rights of people,

the drive-does not only include Hollywood. includes all men and women who engage in the presentation or discussion of ideas. Its deadening effect is already seitling over the cultural life of the country. The drive agsinst culture, the intellectual terror, has had effect! Something is happening to American cultural workers. thing has dulled their perceptions, deprived them of vital themes. That something is the nation-wide sense of fear. Consult demonstrate any quarterly or critical reviews x BEXESSESSION OF CONTROL OF STREET AND SOU CANNOT SAIL to come across an article deplering the low quality of American Where are the new writers, the new themes --- where letters. are the great books and the daring ideas? The answer is, they have died aborning b in a welter of fear and confusion Although we may and intimidation and misinformation. boast about our size and our strength and our wealth, we

films which expressed the hope for continued progress.

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can make no boasts for our literature. It has been, with few exceptions, completely stories by the new American mythmand its other face, the new American inquisition.

It has gone to England and to Italy. And what there exists and the state of for all our national boastings, our painting there is no comparison with the art of occupied and ruined France, just as our music lags far behind the brilliant contributions of the Russians. Well . . . perhaps that isn't important. It was attitive extension with the art of occupied and ruined france, just as our music lags far behind the brilliant contributions of the Russians. Well . . . perhaps that isn't important. It was attitive extension we still have our "know how". We still have our scientists, didn't we make the bomb?

And there, of course, the answer is that we aren't so good on science either. And we never have been. The bomb itself was principally based upon the work of foreigners --non-Americans, if you please, outlanders and phillistines. In chemistry have captured six Nobel prizes out of 43. In physics --- and physics is very important to the bomb --- we have won 8 prizes out of 39. In medicine and physiology we have won 6 prizes out of 37. In other words, we have are now and we have always been far more dependent upon the scientific discoveries of non-Americans than they have been upon us. Dr. Harold Urey testified before the Senate Sub-Committee on War Mobilization that: "The relatively small number of Nobel prizes awardd to the United States indicates the weakness of this country in pure science and also, by contrast, its great strength in industrial development. We have improved our temperaturand industrial xdevelopments scientific position during the past 25 years but all through our history we have drawn on Europe for fundamental science. Our technical and industrial developments are the



offspring of this important fundamental science."

case of weakness might be ratal in case of our government deliberately imprisoning science, impeding the free flow of scientific information, compartmentalizing science within our own boundaries, invoking such hideous penalties upon a careless or injudicious scientists that many of them refuse government service as too perilous. Meanwhile the Thomas Committee harries the Federation of Atomic Scientists as subversive . . . and the very basis of our process is hedged in with restrictions which narrow its range from day to day.

and the new American myth.

A persecution of individuals but the corruption and enslavement of our art, our literature, our science and our respective and to strike down the critical.

It reaches in all directed by by a man named J. Parnell Thomas and his collegue, the Honorable James A. Rankin from the malarial swamps of Mississippi.

What can we do about it? There are many things, of course. It is a defense of our freedom which merits manakanax daxandxdatiyxspassikismx all the time we can give it as individuals, and all the pressures we can exert as an organization. Certainly every person here should be tonight can fill the limit out the petitions, which have been prepared. These become your immediate, your personal protest. We have also published.

in a set of pamphlets the excellent material delivered at

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the Thought Control Conference held mxxx this summer. They represent a brill ant and comprehensive analysis of what is happening to Americanxies our whole society under the blows of reaction. I value my set of these pamphlets as I would value a gun---they provide mentals the ammunition **Extininkxtingsexpfxxxgexypgxxdaxx** with which to degend myself and to convince others. Conference at which they were read was so successful that a nationwide conference is to be held in October 25-26, under the chairmanship of Dr. Harlow Shapley of Harvard University, and under the sponsorship of a Committee of one Thousand distinguished American men I wrong you most strong ander there buy the pamphlets, if only to give to a friend who has not seen the peril to himself which comes against km as well as again the nation-wide or is against ... the agut and free Assa there are many other things which can be done =-- too many for me to enumerate and too many for any one person to accomplish. But the time is very short. The attack has been effective. It proposes to continue until it stands alone in victory --- until no one dares to mpeakxxim teach, to investigate, to write, to paint, to speak or even to think. In Germany we have condemned an entire nation and its people for willingness to permit the passage of wardendamental undemocratic decrees and wicked I think that condemnation is just. laws. Let us take immediate and urgent measures to make certain that the Market Beople of the United States shall never be charged with the same griminglyandyanningx crime --- the most terrible crime that can be charged to any a nation or taken individual --- the crime of having permitted

it to happen.