

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

FOURTEENTH REPORT

OF THE

SPECIAL COMMISSION TO STUDY AND INVESTIGATE
COMMUNISM, SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES
AND RELATED MATTERS IN
THE COMMONWEALTH

MAY, 1961

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION.

Appointed by the President.

Sen. RICHARD R. CAPLES, *Chairman.*

Sen. JOHN F. PARKER.

Appointed by the Speaker of the House.

Rep. JOHN T. TYNAN, *Vice Chairman.*

Rep. ROGER A. SALA.

Rep. GEORGE B. THOMSON.

Rep. JOHN T. BERRY.

Appointed by the Governor.

Hon. GEORGE W. CASHMAN.

THOMAS H. BRESNAHAN, *Counsel.*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

We, the undersigned members of the Special Commission on Communism, Subversive Activities and Related Matters within the Commonwealth, authorized to make a study and investigation under a resolve approved in 1953, and further continued and revived by chapter 54 of the Resolves of 1960, herewith submit its fourteenth report.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD R. CAPLES,
Chairman.

JOHN F. PARKER.

JOHN T. TYNAN,
Vice Chairman.

ROGER A. SALA.

GEORGE B. THOMSON.

JOHN T. BERRY.

GEORGE W. CASHMAN.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

FOURTEENTH REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ON COMMUNISM, SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND RELATED MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMON- WEALTH.

This Commission, which was established by your Honorable Bodies in 1953 and which has since been revived and continued from time to time, expires under the existing resolve on June 7, 1961. This fourteenth report is for the purpose of requesting that the Commission be continued in existence for another year.

The world situation demands knowledge and alertness to recognize the forces that seek the overthrow and downfall of our American form of government. The Legislature has the obligation to inquire into and keep itself informed of individuals, organizations and movements that seek to subvert the government which it is sworn to preserve and uphold. The Commission is at present active in an investigation of the spread of Fascism and Naziism in the Commonwealth, as well as the activities of the Communist Party. It requests the enactment of the proposed resolution marked "Appendix A".

APPENDIX A.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-One.

RESOLVE REVIVING AND CONTINUING THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED TO STUDY AND INVESTIGATE COMMUNISM AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND RELATED MATTERS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

1 *Resolved*, That the unpaid special commission established by
2 chapter eighty-nine of the resolves of nineteen hundred and
3 fifty-three and most recently revived and continued by chapter
4 fifty-four of the resolves of nineteen hundred and sixty, and the
5 time for filing its final report having been extended to the first
6 Wednesday of June, nineteen hundred and sixty-one, is hereby
7 further revived and continued for the purpose of continuing its
8 investigation and study of the extent, character and objects of
9 communism and subversive activities and related matters within
10 the commonwealth; the diffusion within the commonwealth of
11 subversive and un-American propaganda that is instigated from
12 foreign countries, or of a domestic origin, and attacks the prin-
13 ciple of the form of government as guaranteed by our constitu-
14 tion and all other questions in relation thereto that would aid
15 the general court in enacting any necessary remedial legislation.
16 Said commission in making its investigation shall consider all
17 the aspects of such activities, including, but not limiting its in-
18 vestigation thereto, educational, governmental, industrial and
19 political activities. Said commission shall be provided with
20 quarters in the state house or elsewhere, shall hold public hear-
21 ings, may travel within and without the commonwealth, may
22 sit during the session and recess of the general court, may require
23 by summons the attendance of such witnesses and the produc-
24 tion of such books, papers and documents, and take such testi-
25 mony as it deems necessary.

26 Upon a majority vote of the commission, summonses shall be
27 issued under the signature of the chairman or vice chairman,
28 and shall be served by an officer of the general court or by any

29 person designated by the commission. The chairman or any
30 member of the commission may administer oaths to witnesses.
31 Every person who behaves in a disorderly or contemptuous man-
32 ner before such commission shall be deemed guilty of a mis-
33 demeanor punishable as provided in section twenty-eight A of
34 chapter three of the General Laws.

35 The subject of any investigation in connection with which
36 witnesses are summoned shall be clearly stated before the com-
37 mencement of any hearings and the evidence sought to be
38 elicited shall be relevant and germane to the subject as so stated.

39 Any witness summoned at a public hearing and any witness
40 before a private hearing shall have the right to be accompanied
41 by counsel, who shall be permitted to advise the witness while
42 on the witness stand of his rights.

43 Every witness shall have the opportunity at the conclusion of
44 the examination by the commission to supplement the testimony
45 which he has given by making a written or oral statement, which
46 shall be made part of the record, but such statement shall be
47 confined to matters with regard to which he has previously been
48 examined.

49 Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically
50 identified and who believes that testimony or other evidence
51 given in a public hearing before the commission or any sub-
52 committee thereof or comment made by any member of the
53 commission or its counsel tends to defame him or otherwise
54 adversely affects his reputation, shall be afforded the following
55 privileges: —

56 (a) He may file with the commission a sworn statement con-
57 cerning such testimony, evidence or comment, which shall be
58 made part of the record of such hearing.

59 (b) He may appear personally before the commission and
60 testify in his own behalf.

61 Said commission, during its investigation, shall have the as-
62 sistance of the attorney general, the department of education
63 and such other departments, boards, commissions and officers
64 of the state government as may be requested by said commission
65 to assist and co-operate.

66 Said commission shall report its findings to the general court
67 at such time or times as it may deem advisable, but in any event
68 shall file a final report not later than the fourth Wednesday of
69 January, nineteen hundred and sixty-two. Such report may

70 include the name and all other identifying data available to the
71 commission, of any individual, concerning whom, the commis-
72 sion, during the course of the investigation, has received credit-
73 able evidence that such individual was or is a member of the
74 communist party, a communist or a subversive. Said commis-
75 sion may expend for expenses and legal, clerical and other assist-
76 ance, the balance available in item 0298-00 of section two of
77 chapter one hundred and ninety-seven of the acts of nineteen
78 hundred and fifty-four, the balance available in 0298-00 of sec-
79 tion two of chapter seven hundred and eighty-four of the acts
80 of nineteen hundred and fifty-five, the balance available in item
81 0298-00 of section two of chapter seven hundred and forty-six
82 of the acts of nineteen hundred and fifty-six and such additional
83 sums as may be appropriated therefor.