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October 7, 1965

Mr. John H. Coatsworth  
1114 St. James Court  
Madison, Wisconsin 53715

Dear Mr. Coatsworth:

This will acknowledge your letter of September 29.

After reading Parts 1 and 2 of the SISS published hearings on the Communist Youth Program, I feel that no legal action should be commenced at this time. The Siegrist testimony, which appears in Part 2, is innocuous as far as our people are concerned and only mentions Eugene Dennis, Jr., Michael Eisenscher, Philip Davis and Carl Boice. This testimony, which is utterly ridiculous, received no coverage, assuming it was even released to the press. Whatever took place in the executive session was apparently equally restricted in distribution or release.

In other words, I don't think we ought to fire our big guns at too small a target. I feel that we ought to wait to see what else Eastland has up his sleeve. I don't see how the subcommittee could take the Siegrist material even semi-seriously and its failure to make any hay about it apparently justified my impression.

I have circulated this letter to the other lawyers involved, as you can see from the distribution list, for their suggestions and guidance. For their information, the Siegrist testimony, as well as that of Charles E. Moore and Dr. Stefan Possony, the other two witnesses, can be obtained from the Government Printing Office by writing and asking for Parts 1 and 2, hearings before the Subcommittee to Investigate the Administration of the Internal Security Act, dated May 17 and May 18, 1965, and entitled Communist Youth Program.

Naturally, if anything else develops in the way of public disclosure of these hearings or adverse publicity or

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further letters similar to those received last summer, this opinion would be reconsidered. I might add that, while I feel that my instincts are right in this instance, I do not want this letter to be the guideline of the other attorneys as well as our people at Wisconsin. It is just an opinion seeking others.

Please give my best to everyone and keep me informed as to any developments that might change my mind as indicated above.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

William M. Kunstler

cc: Prof. William Rice  
Miss Alicia Kaplow  
Samuel Gruber, Esq.  
Patrick Hallinan, Esq.  
Melvin L. Wulf, Esq.