

# Emergency Civil Liberties Committee Holds Annual Dinner in New York

By FULTON LEWIS JR.

Author James Baldwin was on the dais at the annual dinner of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee a fortnight ago.

The liberal egghead whose books dot the best seller list was a featured guest at the New York dinner of the cited Communist front. With him on the dais were Robert Thompson, the



JAMES BALDWIN

Author James Baldwin was on the dais at the ECLC dinner. Among the other honored guests were Mrs. Cyrus Eaton, who said the FBI was "hypnotized by communism."

top-ranking Communist official once convicted of violating the Smith Act, and Harvey O'Connor, the oft-identified Communist.

Others at the head table included Levi Laub, a curly-haired young man who this year lead defiant American students to Cuba, and Moe Fishman, an identified Communist who has been raising money for Spanish Reds, according to the House UnAmerican Activities Committee.

Mrs. Cyrus Eaton was another honored guest. She delivered a bitter attack on the American press corps, which she characterized as the "lying press, the garbage press." The wife of millionaire industrialist Cyrus Eaton said the FBI was "hypnotized by communism" and soft on crime.

The ECLC's Tom Paine award went to folksinger Bob Dylan, who wore dirty chinos and a worn-out shirt. He accepted the award "on behalf of all those who went to Cuba because they're young and I'm young and I'm proud of it." He went on to say that he saw part of Lee Harvey Oswald "in myself."

When Dylan sat down, veteran leftist Corliss Lamont gave \$5,000 to the group and other philanthropists chipped in smaller sums.

Toastmaster to the affair was John Henry Faulk, the radio-TV person-

ality who won a libel judgment of \$3.5 million (later reduced to \$500,000) from individuals who claimed he was pro-Communist.

During the trial Faulk had said he would "never entertain for anything in any way, shape or form, that was known to me to be in any way associated with anything subversive, Communistic or in opposition to our government."

For the record, this is what the House UnAmerican Activities Committee said about the ECLC in 1959: "The committee finds that the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, established in 1951, although representing itself as a non-Communist group, actually operates as a front for the Communist party. It has repeatedly assisted, by means of funds and legal aid, Communists involved in Smith Act violations and similar proceedings. One of its chief activities has been and still is the dissemination of voluminous Communist propaganda material."

The Senate Internal Security subcommittee in 1956 said that the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee was a Communist front that offered legal protection to the party.

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