

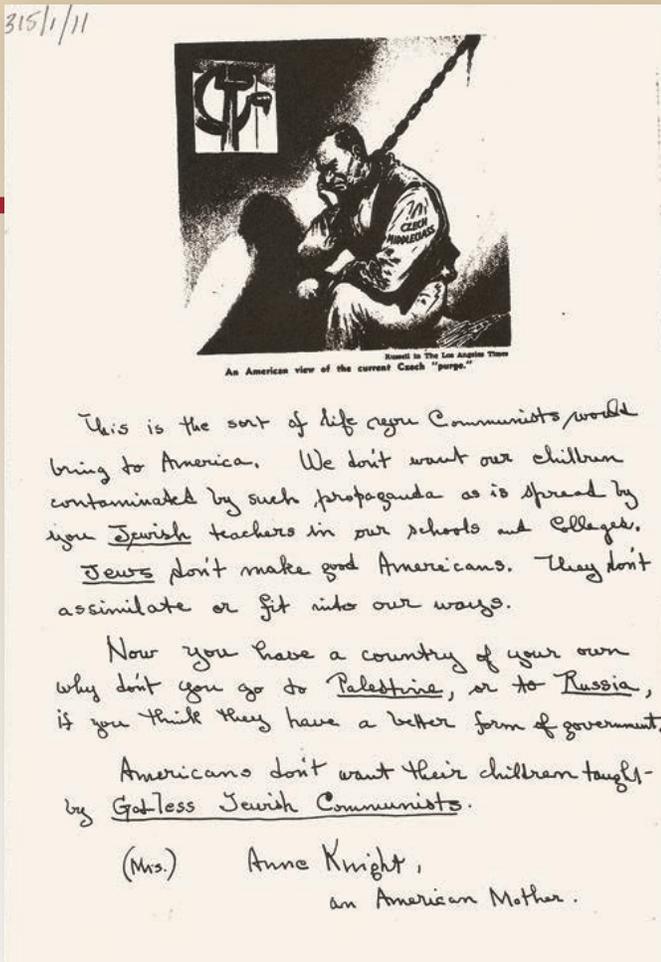
THE ARCHIVES
CONNECTION

This article draws on records from three archival sources. The extensive Anti-Communist Series in New York City's Municipal Archives includes some 1,000 files on individual teachers, internal memos, legal papers, and records of some of the departmental trials, plus newspaper clippings, and publications about and from the Communist Party and the Teachers Union. The legislative records and FBI holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) cover the investigations at the national level, with materials from HUAC, SISS, and other congressional sources, including internal materials and communications with the public. The Tamiment Library and Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives at New York University holds the records of lawyers for the Teachers Union and many individual teachers.

These files show the extent to which investigators and political figures at all government levels collaborated to create fear. It's unsettling to see 14-plus single-spaced typed pages of license plate numbers, collected at rallies, complete with the car owners' names and addresses. Lists of hundreds of teacher names, sometimes with the names of teachers they informed on, are at NARA and the Municipal Archives.

name those they'd known in the party, the board passed what became known as the forced informer resolution on March 17, 1955. It required teachers, under oath, to reveal the names of other teachers who might still be in the Communist Party. Perhaps again a bit reluctantly, Jansen complied, suspending five employees in August 1955 for refusing to name others. But in response to an application filed by the lawyers for the five, James Allen, newly appointed as the state education commissioner, issued a temporary stay in the fall of 1955. This set off a legal and bureaucratic conflict between the city and state education officials that was finally resolved when New York's highest court ruled in favor of Allen's decision in 1959. In the city and nationally, the anti-subversive fervor was subsiding, and the investigators were interrogating fewer teachers.

In 1961, the UFT defeated the TU in a collective bargaining election, and the next year the Board of Education reversed the Timone resolution barring the TU from representing teachers. Court decisions through the 1960s did away with many of the measures used in the investigations. The TU formally disbanded in 1964. Starting in 1972 and through 1981, the Board of Education reinstated and restored pensions to many of the affected teachers still alive, and offered compensation to the families of those who had died. ■



Some letters were openly anti-Semitic.

George Timone, a Board of Education member appointed in 1946 over loud opposition because of his ties to far right organizations, was more strident. (He also became a judge.) Galvanizing widespread support from anti-communist organizations, he played the major role in the board's 1950 adoption of a resolution barring the TU from negotiating for teachers before the board. In 1951, also at Timone's urging, the board adopted a policy statement declaring that the Communist Party was dedicated to violent overthrow of the government and that therefore Communist Party and many TU members were "not qualified to continue in the school system." Meanwhile, investigators paid far

less attention to teachers on the right. One high-profile case, that of May Quinn, dragged on through three proceedings between 1942 and 1949. A civics teacher no less, Quinn incorporated racism, anti-Semitism, and anti-immigrant screeds into her lesson plans. She received no more than gentle reprimands and was still in the classroom in the 1950s.

Within a short time, Moskoff and Timone joined forces on the need to press for names. Both were impatient with Jansen, who resisted, perhaps fearing the potential damage informing could do to school morale. After much discussion and memos on the usefulness and ethics of demanding that teachers