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Radicals' Backers Near Treason

HERE are three popular routes to big money as a public speaker. Be a member of Congress. Be a key figure in national scandal, such as Watergate. Be a radical trying to persuade people that the idealism of democracy and free enterprise is all wrong.

The recent appearance of avowed Communist Angela Davis, on the University of Oklahoma campus for a fee of \$2,685 is a typical example. Sponsors explained that taxpayers did not foot the bill, since the money came from the Speakers Bureau of the OU Student Association. Since its funds come from fees paid by students, this may be a distinction without a difference.

When the Communist speaker said that "the way to bring about change is to organize mass movements," she wasn't talking about reviving the Spirit of 1776. She was talking about replacing capitalism and free enterprise with communism.

Morbid curiosity may account for the paying crowds that go to hear Watergate figures and other types of scandal victims or criminals who have avoided punishment for breaking the laws. John Dean's lecture tour had been expected to bring in \$175,000 before it was interrupted.

Congressmen who demand and accept large fees for speaking to organizations which may be affected by pending legislation may be coming very close to bribery. How can a lawmaker vote for laws that would be unsatisfactory to a trade union or business association that has just praised him to the skies and paid him an honorarium of \$500 to \$10,000?

Marxist economists regard the present situation as a special opportunity to advance Karl Marx's philosophy. They are capitalizing on in-

flation, recession, unemployment and laziness.

The really disturbing aspect of such campaigns is not that the speakers and demonstrators are able to use American freedoms against American liberty, but that they attract crowds of people who seem to be absorbing this alien political poison.

There are many sincere and patriotic Americans who would stand up and speak for what is right, literally waving the flag on the platform, but with activist liberals in control of speakers bureaus, the patriots have few opportunities.

The late and weak reaction of the legislature to the Davis lecture is typical of attitudes found among pol-

iticians. Many seem to be afraid to speak up for American principles and traditions, lest they lose status with the activist groups.

Promoters of communism and socialism say nothing about the rash of political executions that follows a takeover, nor the lowered standard of living that socialism gives to everybody. There may be more equality, because everybody has less.

Treason is defined as any attempt to overthrow the government of a state to which one owes allegiance, and it is the crime of giving aid or comfort to the enemies of one's country.

Treason can occur in peacetime. Those who applaud speakers who advocate overthrow of our government by violence are aiding our enemies.