

# HOWARD FAST BALKS AT QUERIES ON REDS

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21—Howard Fast, the author, has balked at answering questions asked by the House Un-American Activities Committee. Mr. Fast broke with the Communist party this month after many years as one of its leading figures.

Mr. Fast, it was reported, invoked the protection of the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination to avoid answering questions concerning his past party activities and associations.

Meanwhile Robert Morris, counsel for the Senate Internal Security subcommittee, disclosed that Mr. Fast had offered to talk to the Senate group "off the record" and without an official transcript being made.

Mr. Morris said he doubted that the Senators would be satisfied with this.

Mr. Fast charged in New York yesterday that the House Committee had made it virtually impossible for anyone to leave the Communist party and retain any dignity. In this respect, he said, "it has become one of the strongest allies in terms of maintaining the Communist party and its membership that exists in America today."

Mr. Fast reiterated the position he had taken earlier that under no circumstance would he name names.

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