

Jurors Probe Charges That Reds Used Girls To Sap Navy Morale

Purported Testimony Of Communist Leader Revealed at Quiz

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 16.—Charges that girl members of the Young Communist League were instructed to "provide every possible enjoyment and entertainment" to sailors in an attempt to undermine their morale have been presented to a grand jury investigating communistic activities here, District Attorney Buron Fitts' office has announced.

The announcement revealed what it described as the transcript of testimony of John L. Leech, former Communist leader, and quoted him as saying:

"I do not recall a specific direction on the part of the leadership of the Communist party where the girls were told to participate in immoral activities, although I know the party does not frown on that. In fact, it favors it.

Tells of Parties.

"We (the Communists) have had a policy of knowing that no revolution in this country could be successful without undermining the morale of the naval men.

"Various methods were used. We had a policy of having parties in the homes of party members, purely social affairs where members of the Young Communist League and younger members of the Communist party would gather and invite the men and boys of the National Guard, but particularly the sailors on leave from their ships at Los Angeles Harbor.

"Young Communist League girls would gather and mingle with them and go on dates with them and would give them pieces of Communist literature in the guise that they were giving them advice."

The grand jury was convened specifically to inquire into the slaying of a seaman that Prosecutor Fitts contends grew out of a controversy following communistic attempts to gain control of the Maritime Local Union. It since has broadened its investigation, the district attorney said, to include various phases of reported communistic activity in this area.

Actors' Guild Attacks Testimony.

In a statement today the Screen Actors' Guild said:

"To smear prominent persons without any reliable evidence is to play into the hands of Hitler and Stalin by confusing the innocent with the guilty, so that the public distrusts every one. * * *

"Certain prominent actors have been charged to be Communists in the testimony of an admitted ex-Communist named Leech, a professional witness heretofore pronounced unreliable by Dean Landis of the Harvard Law School and, by others than Landis, pronounced a plain liar.

"The testimony of this discredited witness has been included in the transcript of the grand jury, which is investigating a murder with which the actors named admittedly had no connection. The district attorney has made public this smear testimony, naming actors. Yet on August 10, with full knowledge of the Leech testimony, District Attorney Fitts wrote the guild that its members "have never for one moment been questioned as to their loyalty, patriotism and fine citizenship.

"The smear campaign is a trick which obviously is unfair. * * * There is no court where they (the actors) can meet these charges."