

Bogart Vows To Punch Nose Of Red Informer

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Other Film Figures

Hotly Deny Ties With Communists

HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 15 (C.T.P. S.)—The film colony was up in arms today against the charge that a score of Hollywood's stars, directors, writers and producers are paying Communists or fellow travelers. The resentful, disgusted and frightened hosts were led by Humphrey Bogart, No. 1 tough mug of moviedom.

Bogart, his attitude typical, threatened to "punch in the snoot" John Lewis Leech, ex-Red informer who "told all" before a grand jury investigating a five-year-old dockyard murder. He growled that the whole business was "yellow bellied" and announced definitely that he will go to District Attorney Buron Fitts and "demand" that a perjury charge be filed against Leech.

Contributions Meager

Fitts, whose campaign for reelection has lagged largely because of the paucity of contributions from the usually wide open film coffers, was sitting back and saying nothing as his time-bombs exploded in the movie factories.

Fitts' reelection fight, in fact, was one of the things talked about leprecatingly in all the night spots where screen folk gather, such as Chasen's, Bob Murphy's, Ciro's, Perino's Sky Room, and other filled ginmills.

Other film luminaries named by Leech were as prompt as Bogart—but not as violent—in issuing denials.

Face Grand Jury

Fredrick March issued a statement calling Leech an "unmitigated liar." Others for whom denials were released by busy public relations counselors included Francis Lederer, Jean Muir, Jonel Stander, James Cagney, and writer Sam Ornitz.

Ornitz, his wife, Sadie, and Stander and some lesser fry all were paraded before the Grand Jury today, but their testimony was not disclosed.

Ornitz, however, made no bones over how he felt:

"I have been consistently attacking District Attorney Fitts on the basis that he's a bad influence on the community, for the home and in general."

Laughs Provide Humor

Meanwhile, Hollywood's sense of humor found relief in a bit of Leech's Grand Jury testimony shedding light on sex ethics as practiced among the travelers.

A comrade on night duty for the cause lost the affections of his wife, Leech said, to a comrade who had his nights off. The night worker didn't kick until one morning he found himself locked out of his own home.

He finally went to sleep in his room and awoke brooding, to see his fellow traveler reaching for the morning milk.

The nocturnal Red lost his temper, chased his rival into the house, punched him in the eye and threw him out. Then he asked the missus.

Given a hearing before the local "liquidating commission"; according to the testimony, the husband was reminded that Communism doesn't take such a conventional view of marital rights, and he was transferred from Hollywood to San Francisco under the provision of being declared "an enemy of the working classes."

Perhaps the most ironic development today was when fellow travelers took advantage of a rumor in the grand jury corridor to sell tickets to an Earl Browder