

# Stander Film Actor, Called in Red Probe, Faces Suspension

*Stan 8/10/40*

## Enlists Screen Guild To Fight Removal From Important Role

By the Associated Press.

HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 10.—Lionel Stander enlisted aid of the Screen Actors' Guild today to prevent his suspension from a new picture because he has been called into a grand jury probe of Communist party activities.

The gravel-voiced character actor was removed from an important role in Republic Studio's "Hit Parade of 1941" yesterday with the explanation that "he might be subpoenaed in the middle of production."

To which Stander retorted:

"Republic's action is both stupid and absurd. I have been assured by the district attorney that I am a loyal American and a decent citizen and am so regarded by the authorities. It should be regarded by Republic as a privilege to have such a person in its picture.

"I am going to fight the matter to the end. If the studio's action is allowed to stand, the wrong inference will be drawn from it and my career will be blasted.

"A man who is innocent of any wrongdoing cannot afford to stand by and allow the reputation he has built up and protected for 13 years to be besmirched."

The guild, he said, had promised him full support.

Stander appeared twice this week at the grand jury chambers offering to testify, but was told to return next Wednesday. He said he was informed that appearance "is the only one expected of me, and that certainly won't interfere with production."