

Actor Denies He Ever Was a Communist

By United Press

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 8—

Lionel Stander, deep-voiced comedian, was granted permission to appear before the grand jury today as it resumed an inquiry into alleged Communist infiltration in the movies and in other Pacific Coast industries.

The comedian requested Dist. Atty. Byron Fitts to let him appear today. He also accepted a subpoena ordering him to appear Aug. 14 to testify and the same time exacted from Mr. Fitts a statement intended to clear him of any connection with the subject under investigation.

ACTORS LOYAL

"In the interest of fairness," the District Attorney said, "I desire to state that this office has no evidence of information which would justify this office in seeking an indictment of Lionel Stander for any crime or upon any criminal charge.

"I wish to add that the evidence in our possession at this time indicates that, with a very few possible exceptions, the acting profession is composed of patriotic American citizens against whom no implication of subversive activities can be made."

ANTI-NAZI

Mr. Stander, who called on Mr. Fitts with his attorney, declared he never had been a Communist and never had contributed to the party.

"I am a firm believer in the Constitution and American democracy, as are all members of the Screen Actors Guild," he said. "The only thing I can be charged with is that I was anti-Nazi before being anti-Nazi was fashionable and before people were aware of the Hitlerism menace."

A \$65,000 damage suit against Mr. Fitts has been brought by Brittain Webster, accused of murder in connection with the five-year-old slaying of a longshoreman. Mr. Webster charged he was held in secret custody four days without being allowed to communicate with his family or attorney. Mr. Fitts had said Communist plotted the murder.