

L.A. Witchhunt Vulgar Exhibit, Charges C.P.

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Fitts Seeks Publicity on Eve of Election, Says County Secretary

(Special to the Daily Worker)

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 7.—In a slashing answer to District Attorney Buron Fitts' "cheap and vulgar political exhibitionism," in his current weird Red scare, Paul Cline, county secretary of the Communist Party, today declared that his organization "will do all in its power to expose Buron Fitts as a creature of the open shop and underworld and to secure his defeat in the November elections."

Cline made his statement following the arrest by Fitts of Britt Webster, union longshoreman, on charges of murder in the death of John Riley five years ago in San Pedro. At the time of Riley's death, a coroner's jury found no evidence upon which to base murder charges.

ELECTION NEARING

The statement follows:

"After five years of alleged investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of John Riley, Buron Fitts now claims he has broken up the case four weeks before he come up before the electors of Los Angeles in the primaries.

"Mr. Fitts certainly believes in making the breaks for himself. This

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is the best example today of real Fittskrieg hysteria, of cheap and vulgar political exhibitionism.

"Fitts is desperately trying to bolster his position so he resorts to this unprincipled attack on the Communist Party.

"As to the facts on the alleged murder case, at the time of the Riley murder in 1936, the coroners jury could find no valid evidence for holding anyone on murder charges.

"Britt Webster who took an active leading part in the 1934 seamen's strike as a member of the seamen's union has been in and out of San Pedro constantly for the last five years. He was voted into membership of the longshoremen's union several years ago almost unanimously.

"His arrest is an attempt not only to whip up hysteria against the Communist Party, but to smear the Longshoremen's Union.

"The longshoremen, having had many experiences with Fitts' union busing activities, are not falling for this latest gag of his. They have branded the Webster arrest for what it is, an open shop attack against organized labor.

"As regards force and violence, the position of the Communist Party is well known. Our constitution specifies that:

"Party members found to be advocates of terrorism and violence as a method of Party procedure shall be expelled from the Party and exposed before the general public."

"The biggest hoax and joker in the whole fantastic story is that relating to the supposed plan of the Communist Party to coerce none other than Henry Ford to join our Party.

"This is as close an approach to weird and grotesque insanity as I have ever run into in my 15 years as a Communist.

"Can anyone outside an insane asylum imagine such a situation as this, Henry Ford being compelled to sign a Communist Party application under threat of facing a firing squad?

"As to the drivel of Hollywood stars being in on the conspiracy, this is dragged in by the ears. The long ears, I suspect, of one John L. Leech, expelled stool-pigeon, who has been toured around the country by Martin Dies to peddle his stool-pigeon charges.

"It is possible that Fitts' blast against the Communist Party is not unrelated to the action taken by the county convention of the Communist Party recently, in deciding to prosecute vigorously for the defeat of Buron Fitts. The Communist Party of Los Angeles County, while endorsing and supporting no candidate in the district attorney race, will do all in its power to expose Buron Fitts as a creature of the open shop and underworld and to secure his defeat in the November elections."