

Odets Called In Coast Probe Of Red Plotting

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Conspiracy to Kill

Ford and Overthrow
U. S. Is Charged

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 5 (C.T. P.S.).—A "startling amount of evidence" that Communists in California plotted to seize labor unions, assassinate Henry Ford and other prominent Americans and overthrow the government violently will be presented to a Los Angeles grand jury tomorrow, District Attorney Buron Fitts announced today.

Two men have been arrested, one in connection with the murder of an anti-Red member of one of the Pacific coast seaman's unions, Fitts declared. Four other men are hunted.

Plot to Capture Unions

Evidence gathered in a 22-months' investigation, Fitts said, will describe to the grand jurors the influencing of prominent Hollywood film figures to further Communists' designs, and a program to "capture" and ultimately destroy labor unions.

Scores of prominent Hollywoodites, including writer Clifford Odets, Lionel Stander, an actor, and Henry Bieberman, a film director, as well as leading politicians and labor officials will be summoned before the grand jury, Fitts added, to "explain their connection with the Communist party and their aid to the Communist party."

Summonses were issued today for Odets, Stander, and Bieberman.

Also to be laid before the grand jury will be the proceedings of a meeting in Hollywood at which it was decided that when the present American Government is overthrown, Ford and other prominent industrialists would be given a chance to "join the party" or be shot.

Beaten to Death

One of the men arrested is Britain Webster, 27, a longshoreman, who is in jail in connection with the murder of John Riley, who was beaten to death on June 24, 1935. Riley, a member of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, was killed in San Pedro, according to the district attorney's office, after he had ascertained that Communists were "endeavoring to infiltrate into the union, and had already set up a secret headquarters where their literature was being printed."

While attempting to expose the Reds' activities and CIO connections to police, it is charged, Riley was attacked by a group of men and fatally beaten.

The second man arrested is Clyde Champion, leader of the San Joaquin Cannery Workers' Union. He was seized secretly Saturday at Bakersfield. Police refused to say on what charges he was being held.

Pressure on Movie Folk

Besides the Riley killing, Fitts' office said, the "investigation discloses that other murders were committed by the plotters on the Pacific Coast."

Odets, Stander, and Bieberman are expected to tell the jurors how the Communist party attempts to use motion pictures as propaganda medium to further the interests of the party.

"We have information," said Assistant District Attorney Ernest Rolls, "that screen writers and directors are under orders from the Red party to submit for approval all screen plays they are working on in order that nothing favorable to the capitalistic party shall creep into the picture. If



BRITAIN WEBSTER

Seized in 1935 Union Murder Laid to Communists

they fail to obey orders, they are disciplined.

"There are various means of punishing the recalcitrant ones. Sometimes they get their hats blocked. (This means a bash on the head.) There is a psychiatrist who does nothing but work for the party here to take care of the guys whose brains are damaged from severe beatings."