

House Group Excuses Two Asserted Reds

Volunteer Witnesses' Testimony Ignored At Tax Hearing

Two asserted Communist fellow-travelers, who had the House Ways and Means Committee traveling in circles for a brief while yesterday, can go on their way, members of the committee were agreed after a brief but heated discussion.

The two are John E. Middleton, New York, vice president of the International Workers Order, and Vivian Cadden, Washington, of the American Youth Congress.

Dies Records Read

They showed up yesterday afternoon as the House Committee was considering the Administration's \$3,600,000,000 tax increase bill. Both Middleton and Miss Cadden were against the measure.

As soon as Middleton finished his testimony, excerpts from the records of the Dies Committee on Unamerican Activities were read, branding the International Workers Order a Communist front organization.

This Middleton denied, saying it was purely fraternal in nature, but Representative Harold Knutson (R.), of Minnesota, declared: "I condemn witnesses who come here deliberately lying."

Voluntary Witnesses

Representative Wesley Disney (D.), of Oklahoma, added:

"I don't think we ought to dignify these representatives of organizations so generally charged with subversive activities by asking their representatives to come here and testify."

This brought Chairman Robert L. Doughton (D.), of North Carolina, into the discussion. He denied they had been asked to testify. He said the record would show they were voluntary witnesses, and that the committee

had more important uses for its time than pursuing any investigation of them. There the matter rested.

Tax Split Impends

Meanwhile, the Treasury's new excess profits tax program brought threat of a congressional split which may delay enactment of the \$3,500,000,000 "anti-inflation" tax bill several weeks.

Urging an excess profits tax plan which was rejected by Congress last year, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Sullivan proposed maximum rates of 65 per cent with the total corporation tax bill being boosted \$1,096,000,000.

Another split loomed over Sullivan's suggestion that his proposed \$3000,000,000 increase in corporation taxes, together with possible increases in automobile, tires, tube, refrigerator and similar taxes be used to effect "savings" in other suggested tax increases.