

Two Ex-CIO Officials Testify Communists Forced Them Out

By the Associated Press.

Two former CIO local union officers told Dies subcommittee today their official connection with the union was severed because they refused to engage in political activity or to accept Communist leadership.

Both were members of Local 1150, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, and are employed by the Chicago Flexible Shaft Co.

Harry Morgan, who said he had been chief shop steward until he was ousted last June, told the committee, investigating CIO Political Action Committee activities, he had opposed injection of politics into union activities.

Resisted "Dictation."

The local's Executive Board, he testified, ousted him as chief steward because he refused "to take political dictation" and to co-operate with the operation of the Abraham Lincoln School, which the Dies Committee has described as a "Communist educational medium."

Mr. Morgan told the committee his "hand-picked" successor was Ragnar Lefgren, whom he described as a graduate of the Abraham Lincoln School.

"The Communists did take over," Mr. Morgan replied when Chairman Costello asked if the procedure in his case was "typical of the way the Communists take over a union after it has been organized."

Mr. Morgan's fellow worker, Elmer Henry Churchill, said he resigned as shop steward after Mr. Morgan was ousted, but his resignation has not been accepted. Asked about his present union status, he replied:

"I have a pretty good idea that I'm behind the eight ball."

Communists Declared Strong.

Mr. Churchill said Communists were "strong" in the leadership of the local union. He said he had joined with Mr. Morgan in organizing his shop unit and resisting efforts of union leaders to "dictate" to members on political matters and concerning what newspapers they should read. Some union leaders, he added, had urged a boycott of the Chicago Tribune because of its editorial policies.

Robert E. Stripling, Dies Committee investigator, charged on the stand yesterday that the Political Action Committee—supporting a fourth term for President Roosevelt—is not primarily a laboring-man's organization, but a movement to "take over and destroy the American system of Government by the taking over of a major political party."