

Anti-Semite Text for Rebel Warden

McCourt Quotes Vicious Slander on La Guardia to Queens Friends

By GENE DE PORIS

James J. McCourt, one of the two leaders in the Queens air-raid warden revolt against Mayor La Guardia, yesterday denied persistent reports that the revolt was a Christian Front plot.

In the next breath he blandly admitted that he had been bombarding wardens with quotations from Joseph P. Kamp, notorious anti-Semite and red-baiter.

He showed me one of Kamp's pamphlets he had received through the mail after the story of the revolt became public. It's called *Why Win the War and Lose What We're Fighting For*.

"It lists the name and salary of every Communist in the Government," he explained. "I pick excerpts out of it when I talk on Civilian Defense."

McCourt, who is an undertaker and zone warden in the 106th precinct, opened the pamphlet to Page 14 and read a characterization of Mayor La Guardia:

'Moronic Maneuvers'

"... Fiorello La Guardia, the most ridiculous Red of our time, whose revolutionary antics are surpassed only by his moronic maneuvers in the spotlight, in a fireman's hat."

"Hah!" he laughed. "That's hot, isn't it?"

McCourt put the pamphlet aside, leaned back in his chair and repeated the reference from memory word for word.

"The book is very well gotten up. It's got a copyright so it must be true. You ought to read it," he advised. "You ought to read some of the reasons why Civilian Defense is a failure. It will scare you before you get through. They appoint this ex-Communist... this Melvin Hesselberg."

McCourt, a slim, bespectacled, gray-haired man, opened the pamphlet again and pointed to remarks on James M. Landis. He was referred to as La Guardia's "office executive... protege of Prof. Felix Frankfurter, who won national notoriety for his thorough whitewash of the alien Communist, Harry Bridges."

"And who do you think Mr. Knudsen had to help him?" McCourt asked. "Sidney Hillman!" he said slowly and deliberately. He turned the pamphlet's pages. "Listen to this," he said. And he read:

'Soviet Sidney'

"And just imagine, at the next War Board meeting, the 'advice and assistance' that Mr. Nelson will get from 'Soviet Sidney' Hillman, who gives lip service to American principles and ideals while substantially supporting the cause of Red insurrection."

Besides quoting excerpts of this pamphlet at Civilian Defense meetings, McCourt said he used to carry on an "anti-Communist" crusade on Queens street corners in 1936-37, as president of the Citizens' League Against Communism.

"We battered hell out of them," he recalled.

McCourt also advertised in the *Christian Index*, the old Christian Front shopper's guide.

McCourt said he canceled the ad after he received a protest from a Jewish friend.

"I didn't even know what kind of a maga-

zine it was," he explained. "A guy came to me and asked me for a few bucks for an ad for his magazine. I got mad when I found out what it was about. Why, some of my best friends are Jews."

"But listen to this about Communists," McCourt said. "I got a letter by fair means or foul written by a Loyalist in Barcelona to a friend in Queens. I gave it to George (Harvey). It went:

"Dear Jack, How is Moe, Ike and Sid and Jake? ..."

"You know the kind of stuff."

McCourt, who is still a zone warden although the revolt's co-leader, Walter Sandt, is suspended, suddenly thought of the pamphlet again.

"I wonder," he said, shaking his head, completely mystified. "How this guy La Guardia got where he did with all this stuff they've got in the book about him."