

PEACE LEAGUE HEAD SAYS REDS BACK IT

Communist Party Alone of Its
Supporting Groups Paid Dues
in Full, Dr. Ward Testifies

STRESSES MATTHEWS LINK

'You Were There,' He Declares
When Dies Aide Asks About
Formation of 'Front'

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
WASHINGTON, Oct. 23—Financial support given by the Communist party to the American League of Peace and Democracy was described today before the Dies committee investigating un-American activities by Dr. Harry F. Ward, general secretary of the league.

The Communist organization contributed between \$2,000 and \$3,000 a year, he said, but denied that the league's foreign policy was influenced or controlled by the Communist party.

The contributions arose, Dr. Ward testified, from a program, since dropped, by which the league sought to obtain a per capita annual contribution from each of its affiliated organizations.

"How many of these organizations paid up their dues," Chairman Dies asked the witness.

"None of them paid in full except the Communist party," replied the

Lithuanians Expect Reich To Return Port of Memel

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

RIGA, Latvia, Oct. 23—Trustworthy reports from Kaunas, Lithuania, state that serious negotiations are progressing with Germany for retransfer of the whole port of Memel to Lithuania for fifty-five years. Announcement of an agreement is declared imminent.

In this connection it is believed the recent German-Soviet bargain for the cession of German influence in the Eastern Baltic to the Soviet included Memel and that that is why Germany began a few weeks ago to dismantle her fortifications there, energetically constructed after Lithuania had been forced to yield Memel last Spring.

witness, adding that, since the league's dues program was dropped, the Communist party had continued to contribute.

Dr. Ward occupied the stand for almost seven hours, appearing, he emphasized, as a "volunteer." He engaged in a heated debate with various committee members over a contention that the league voluntarily gave its records to the committee, an argument which was sharply disputed by J. B. Matthews, the director of research and counsel for the committee.

Matthews Was Organizer

Dr. Ward faced Mr. Matthews under odd circumstances, since the latter was an organizer of the American League Against War and Fascism, which later became the

American League for Peace and Democracy.

Mr. Matthews testified before the committee last year that he was a former "fellow traveler" with the Communist party, and described at that time how he had helped form scores of organizations as "fronts" for that party.

When Mr. Matthews, now as committee counsel, pressed a long series of questions seeking to show by Dr. Ward's testimony the connection between the league and communism, the latter snapped:

"You know more about that than I do, Mr. Matthews. You were there."

Mr. Matthews read into the record long sections from various pamphlets issued by the league, but Dr. Ward consistently replied that these pamphlets for the most part were expressions of his own opinions and did not reflect the attitude of the league, which was contained in a platform previously published.

This platform deals generally with peace and civil liberties, dovetailing in the latter with the program of the American Civil Liberties Union, in which Dr. Ward also occupies an important position.

Dr. Ward characterized at least one of the statements made by him in former years, extolling the peace efforts made by Soviet Russia, as a "trial balloon" on which the league was not prepared to go along.

"You still speak in the highest terms, though, of the Soviet Union and oppose fascism?" asked Representative Starnes of Alabama.

Dr. Ward replied that he favored the peace efforts of the Soviet Union, repeated three times at Geneva.

In subsequent questioning he denied emphatically that he had participated in conferences with the Communist Party Bureau or that

the league had cooperated with the Communist party in the latter's program.

Dr. Ward denied with equal emphasis that he was a Communist, although he told the committee that he was "an anti-capitalist," adding that he was a "critical observer" of communism.

"You believe in democracy without the profit system and without capitalism?" Mr. Starnes asked him.

"Of course," the witness replied, "if you extend democracy, that is what you have."

Dr. Ward protested time and again at introduction into the hearings of league records of four and five years ago, which, he said, gave a false impression of the league as it operates today.

When questioned again about his own views of communism, Dr. Ward declared that he still opposed the Nazi movement as an imperialistic one and refused to group communism in that bracket.

"I know there is no personal dictatorship in the Soviet Union," he asserted emphatically.

"When were you there last?" Mr. Dies asked.

"I returned from my last visit in 1933," the witness replied.

"What are your sources of information?"

Dr. Ward replied that he read regularly the official Russian publications published in English and a wide variety of British and American newspapers.

Censure of Soviet Rejected

It was declared here Sunday that the executive committee of the American League for Peace and Democracy, at a closed meeting three weeks ago, had voted 14 to 1, a proposal that condemn the Soviet-Nazi LeRoy Russian aggression in _____. The statement was

E. Bowman, a member of the executive committee, who is on the staff of the United States Office of Education and is a former director of the United Parents Associations here. He said that he had submitted the proposal and that his was the only vote for it. He added that he had also proposed that the league disband, but that this was also rejected.

He announced that the proposal concerning Russia would be offered at the meeting of the national committee of the league at Philadelphia next Saturday and Sunday and that if it was rejected he would resign.