

The Same Old Stuff!

Sure enough, the day after the new CIO Industrial Council was formed last week, the newspapers opened up on the progressive unions, singling out for special attack Joe Curran, who was elected president.

10/14/1936

Rec'd from Joe CURRAN -

Dues for 3 Mos. No. 1437 • 2.00	7	20
WATERFRONT COUNCIL	2	00
N.M.U. FUND	3	00
R.F. FUND	1	00
TOTAL	14	30

U.S.A. NICHOLS
C.P. of U.S.A. NICHOLS
No. 52171 B
A.M.H. on [Signature]

Here is that phoney receipt the "Willkie Telegram" printed the day after the CIO Industrial Council was formed in New York and Joe Curran was elected President. Notice the date: October 14, 1936. Then notice "N.M.U. fund, \$3.00" itemized in the receipt. Notice also, at the bottom, "Sec. A. N.M.U." The National Maritime Union was not formed until May 3, 1937. But that doesn't stop the Telegram. Incidentally, take a gander at the addition—try and get \$14.20. That looks like some of Pete Innes' figuring, when he was juggling figures as NMU purchasing agent—before he was caught and departed for parts unknown.

Taking the lead was the World Telegram, now known as the "Willkie Telegram," and George Backer's New York Post, most virulent enemy of the American Labor Party and of Labor's Non-Partisan League.

The Telegram even went so far as to print a forged Communist Party dues receipt, with the name "Joe Curran" printed in ink at the top.

It turned out, however, that the Telegram was asleep again. The forged receipt was dated October 14, 1936, and at the bottom listed the dues-payer as belonging to Section A, NMU.

There was no NMU in October, 1936. The NMU was not formed until May 3, 1937.

Incidentally, the receipt itemized the money as follows: dues, \$7.50;

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Waterfront Council, 2.00; NMU fund, \$3.00; and R. F. fund, \$1.00.

Flukey Totals

Add that up. It comes to \$13.20. Now take a look at the facsimile of the receipt printed on this page. The total is given as \$14.20. Apparently the forgers were so nervous they couldn't add.

Checking back through rank and file records of the Seamen's Defense, we find that Curran and Dave Ramos were in California in the middle of October, 1936. They had gone there after the Seamen's Defense Committee had borrowed \$150 from Fred Blossom.

So, the more you examine the forgery, the phonier the whole thing looks.

Curran, in a statement issued the same day, pointed out that these attacks could be expected with increasing regularity—now that the CIO had formed a council, and thrown its enemies into a sweat.

Reasons for Attack

"The NMU is being attacked for two reasons," he said. "First, because we have raised wages in the industry nearly 50 percent. Second, because we are in the front rank of those opposed to this country's entrance into the present European war.

"These attacks will continue as long as we stand for high wages and for peace.

"Neither the Communist Party nor any other political party controls our organization. It is strictly membership-controlled, as an examination of our records and minutes of meetings will show. Even election of officers is by membership referendum—something that is not true of any other union in the country.

Outright Forgeries

"I have stated on many occasions that I am not a Communist and never have been. Any letters, cards or other documents purporting to show that I am a member of the Communist party are outright forgeries."

The newspapers, particularly the Telegram, also reprinted some of the testimony given before the Dies Committee by Pete Innes, who also had trouble with his figures while NMU purchasing agent, and William C. (Wanted for Murder) McCuiston.

Here again the Telegram was fooled. It printed this labor spy testimony as new stuff—when as a matter of fact, it had been printed half a dozen times already.

Intellectual Tramp

It was palmed off on them by one, Charles Yale Harrison, an employe of the New Leader, house organ for the Democratic Social Federa-

tion, and a former Socialist, but now a Trotskyite drum beater.

Harrison is a reform school graduate. He was one time a "trusty" at Boys Farms, at Strawbridge, Quebec. He was turned loose to go into the Canadian Army. Later, he turned up on the fringe of the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee—where he convinced everybody that he was a genuine (at least this is genuine about him) dyed-in-the-wool, A No. 1 rat.

He blushes at the name "Schmuelson." Maybe the other rat, Winchell, can find out why.

Oh yes, he once finagled a scholarship to the Yaado Colony for writers and artists—but he soon made himself so personally obnoxious to

everybody there that he had to get the hell out.

Company He Keeps

Seamen will understand the kind of a guy he is when we say that he is apparently friendly with King, Carlucci, Innes and Renaud.

Incidentally, the Telegram failed to report that Harrison went to the Merchant Marine Institute, got a turn-down, and was finally forced to turn to other, less squeamish, elements to peddle his stuff—if you get what we mean.