

Marcantonio and Cox In Clash at Hearing



REP. VITO MARCANTONIO
"That Guy Was Just Gunning for Me . . . But He Can't Bully Me."—I.N.P.

'Are You Communist?' Georgian Asks New Yorker

By SAM SHAFFER

Tempers flared during the House Rules Committee hearing Thursday and only the ardent pleas of the chairman, Adolph J. Sabath (D.), of Illinois, kept two Members of Congress from taking punches at each other.

Calm was disrupted within a few minutes after the hearing on the resolution to continue operation of the Dies un-American Activities Investigation Committee began.

CLASHES WITH COX

Representative Vito Marcantonio (A.L.), of New York, had just opened his mouth to speak in opposition to the resolution when Representative E. E. Cox (D.), of Georgia, queried:

"Are you a Communist?"

"I'm not," Marcantonio replied angrily, "and furthermore, anyone who says so is a liar."

"I didn't say so. I was just asking. If I had so asked you, I'd kick you if you called me a liar."

"Stop, stop, gentlemen," Sabath began pleading, but his pleas went unheard as the faces of the two

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Congressmen grew redder with anger.

CAMERA SEIZED

"Any time you're ready to start, I'm ready," Marcantonio shot at Cox. "I won't take any of your stuff lying down."

By this time Sabath's pleas were heard, or it may have been that Cox's attention was distracted by the presence of a cameraman whom he had just noticed.

Sabath then ordered a Capitol policeman to seize the camera of Charles Kneel, International News photographer.

"The policeman chased me to the elevator and took my camera away from me," Kneel said. "He brought me back to Sabath's office where I was held for 15 minutes. Meantime, they took the plates out of my holders. They returned my holders, but not my plates."

WAS 20 FEET AWAY

"It was a swell shot. The Representatives were yelling at each other and swinging their arms and fists. Later Sabath told me to keep my camera out of his committee room."

Sabath, when questioned, refused to discuss the incident. But Marcantonio was still to enlarge upon his grievances later in the day.

"That guy," he said, "was just gunning for me. He asked me whether I was a Communist before I had said anything to the committee."

"He's just a big bully, but he can't bully me. You know, I think that Cox just made that crack because he was sitting 20 feet away from me."

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