

Pilot 11/3/39

McCuistion Is Arrested For Murder

WASHINGTON, D. C.—William C. McCuistion, one of the band of armed gangsters that has been roaming the Gulf and beating up and killing rank and file seamen, was snatched from the Dies Committee witness stand and arrested for the murder of Phil Carey on Tuesday.

McCuistion was named by Chief of Detectives John Grosch of the New Orleans police force as one of the three men identified by witnesses as the killer of Brother Phil Carey on the night of September 17 in the front of the Lee Circle Cafe in New Orleans. According to the witnesses' testimony, two thugs hammered Carey's face while another shot him in the back. Carey then staggered into the Cafe and fell dead.

McCuistion had just concluded two days of testimony which, according to the Dies Committee is to uncover un-American activities, but which has amounted mainly to discredit and destroy the National Maritime Union while it is trying to negotiate new agreements with the shipowners.

When arrested, McCuistion appeared to be stunned and immediately branded the whole thing a "Communist plot." The next day McCuistion had his mother appear before the Committee and tell a story about communism within the NMU. She also said

(Continued on

out. that and LRB

At wn-self

us se af re or

id-)r- ais

in

our til

he on. is-re

pts ght

sed for

ies

the MU the put vas

fat will he

McCuistion Arrested At Dies "Circus" By N. O. Police

(Continued from Page 1)

tion's arrest was a frame-up, and denied that he was guilty of murder.

McCuistion in his testimony described himself as an ex-member of the NMU and the Communist party but said he had been expelled from both. He spent two days telling of his activities during the early days of the Marine Workers Industrial Union and later in the rank and file movement that preceded the National Maritime Union. He boasted of his successes in stirring up trouble for both the shipowners and the seamen themselves. On one occasion he said that he won a strike by threatening to throw overboard a cargo of monkeys in Bombay, India. Monkeys are considered sacred out there, he declared, and the native longshoremen backed the seamen up.

Following the 1936-'37 strike McCuistion said he went to fight with the Loyalist Government army in Spain but later deserted. He then returned as a stow-away to the U. S. A. where he immediately joined the Mariners Club and worked with Ray Carlucci who was later expelled from the NMU as a labor spy. After Carlucci was expelled and the Mariners Club disbanded, McCuistion went down to the Gulf where he helped the now expelled Gulf District Committee try to break away and join the SIU. This attempt proving unsuccessful, McCuistion joined in and helped to organize the goon squads who have been responsible for the late reign of terror in which three members, including Phil Carey, were killed.

McCuistion's arrest came as an extraordinary climax to an otherwise routine series of hearings. Both Mr. Dies and McCuistion appeared to be very much upset.