

Plot 11/3/39

SS

AMAZED AT DIES' STATEMENT, CURRAN TELLS COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, Nov. 1—Joseph Curran, President of the National Maritime Union, sent a registered letter today to Cong. Martin Dies, Chairman of the Committee on un-American Activities, expressing amazement at newspaper stories saying that he and the NMU were interfering with the exposure of un-American activities.

He refuted the statement of the Committee that no effort had been made to apprehend William C. McCuiston, arrested for the slaying of Philip Carey, NMU official, until he testified before the Committee.

In his letter, Curran called to mind that he had sent Cong. Dies a telegram on Oct. 30 informing him that McCuiston was wanted by Federal agents for questioning in regards to the murders of Union members, and asking him to cooperate by checking with Attorney General Murphy.

Curran cites this telegram as evidence of a desire on the part of the Union to cooperate with the Committee.

The letter also points out that the NMU had offered a reward of \$1,100 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for Carey's murder.

"McCuiston," says the letter, "was one of an organized gang who traveled through the various ports of the Gulf area which was responsible for the beating, intimidation and injury of many seamen. This activity culminated in the murder of a rank and file seaman, John Syrnick, on June 28, in Galveston, and the vicious beating and murder of twenty-seven-year-old Philip Carey, National Maritime Union official, in New Orleans, on Sept. 17."

The Police in New Orleans, the letter says further, had notified many cities that McCuiston was wanted and the Homicide Bureau in New York had received the request from the New Orleans police together with a photograph and fingerprints.

Curran adds that the Union has no desire to be a party to the violation of civil rights of any individuals, "nor do we feel that your Committee is justified in suggesting that we have failed in respect."

Kansas Pass