

DIES GROUP TAKES SURPRISE RECESS

Study of Red-Maritime Testimony in Hand Is Expected During 3-Week Suspension

TACTICS AT CANAL TOLD

Witness Charges a Communist Organized a C.I.O. Unit—Men Named Issue Denials

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 — The House Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities voted unexpectedly today to take a long recess. The decision came after several days of testimony purporting to show Communist control over the workers in the merchant marine.

The recess was ascribed officially to the nearness of the adjournment of Congress, but in the light of known plans for intensive investigation of the alleged Communist movement in the National Maritime Union, a C. I. O. affiliate, it was believed that the committee decided to correlate testimony before starting the hearings, which Chairman Dies has announced will be held in New Orleans.

Much of the testimony about the N. M. U. and its alleged Communist domination under Joseph Curran was given by William C. McCuiston, who was arrested here on Monday at the request of the New Orleans police in connection with the slaying of Philip Carey, an official of the union.

McCuiston, who has been questioned by the Civil Liberties Division of the Department of Justice at the request of the Dies committee, refused today to waive extradition to New Orleans. The committee has promised that his rights will be protected if he went there.

Red Organizer in Canal Zone

A brief session of the committee this morning yielded an assertion by Frederick C. Phillips, former N. M. U. official ousted by Curran, that H. A. Stoudt, a Communist party member, had been sent to the Panama Canal to head "a temporary and provisional" C. I. O. unit in the Canal Zone.

Phillips testified that Stoudt was designated by John L. Lewis, chairman of the C. I. O., on the recommendation of Curran, and that he worked with the Communists in the N. M. U. who, he said, constituted 80 per cent of the union's officials.

Later C. I. O. officials said that no charter had been issued for a Panama unit, but that Stoudt, after trying to organize seamen independently in the Canal Zone, had

Report of Reich Collapse Caused Czechs' Outburst

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
PARIS, Nov. 3—It was a premature celebration of Germany's defeat on the Western Front that caused riotings and mass arrests in Tabor, Bohemia, last week, according to reports to Czechs here.

On Oct. 26 Tabor heard that the German front had collapsed and that the restoration of the Czechoslovak Republic had been proclaimed in Prague. Several thousand employes of tobacco factories left work to parade. Houses were decorated with Czech flags. Pictures of Chancellor Hitler were burned in public. Many German soldiers of the local garrison joined the demonstration and helped the Czechs to demolish the Elite Guards' building and to attack the headquarters of the Gestapo [secret police].

Alarmed German officials in Prague rushed a column of shock troops to Tabor. Four hundred German soldiers were arrested and the rest of the garrison was sent to the interior of Germany. Many hundreds of Czechs were imprisoned and martial law was proclaimed.

received a C. I. O. designation to enhance his prestige.

The committee requested the Department of Justice to investigate violation by the N. M. U. of the civil liberties of Phillips on the basis of letters written in 1937 by Thomas McCowan, Boston agent of the N. M. U.

Story of a Soldier in Spain

Following Phillips on the stand, William G. Ryan of Milwaukee, a free lance writer, told of having been a Communist party member from 1929 to 1937, when he changed his mind after being taken to Spain under Communist auspices and serving in the Loyalist army. He exhibited his "party book," bearing the number 17,880, and described his experiences.

He recited some verses of the songs taught to Americans in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. The brigade anthem, he said, concluded with the words, "Forward, Red soldiers, to victory." Another song, he testified, contained the line, "and when we get back home, we'll do the same thing over there."

The N. M. U. issued today a 20,000-word booklet entitled "Labor Spies in the N. M. U.," in which it denied domination by Communists, insisted on the democratic processes of its organization and asserted that employers' agents, expelled from the union, were testifying before the Dies committee in a continuation of the campaign that the ships' operators have carried on against the seamen ever since the N. M. U. was formed.

This evening the Justice Department made public a letter sent to

Chairman Dies by Attorney General Murphy in response to the former's request that the League for Peace and Democracy be prosecuted as an alien agency. Mr. Murphy said he would have the evidence examined, and added:

"In order to sustain a conviction and warrant prosecution, not only must it be relevant and admissible under the established rules of evidence. It must be sufficient to meet all the requirements of legal and factual proof, and prove every element of the alleged offense beyond a reasonable doubt, including the existence of an actual agency."

"In the performance of its duty to enforce compliance with the laws and prosecute any violations thereof, it is the obligation and responsibility of the department to safeguard and protect the rights of citizens as well. At the cost of whatever inconvenience and annoyance to individual citizens and government officials, the fundamental rights and privileges of free assembly, free opinion, and free speech as guaranteed by Federal and State Constitutions must be respected and observed."

Denials of Communist Label

Two persons designated as Communists in testimony before the Dies Committee issued denials last night. H. A. Stoudt stated here that he never had been a member of the party or an official of the N. M. U. John R. Murray, business agent of the N. M. U., in a letter to Chairman Dies denying party membership, suggested that investigation of "tactics used by shipowners to exploit maritime workers" would uncover "many real violations of Americanism."

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