

Ousted Professional Spies Given Congress As Platform for Lies

Documentary Proof, Confessions in Union's Hands Show How Men Now Serving Dies, Had Schemed to Smash Union

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Phillips, after whose fantastic yarn about "red control" in the hearings, was on the pay roll of Standard Oil of New Jersey and the Luckenbach Steamship Co., Walter Carney, former secretary-treasurer of the NMU's deck division and one of the spy gang, revealed in a confession.

The union has documentary evidence and other proof—far more than even a court in Dies' own district would require—showing how these men were part of a gang that was in the hire of shipowners' and detective spy agencies on a carefully planned and heavily financed project to seize the union.

Much of that material, confessions of the spies themselves, is contained in a pamphlet "Labor Spies in the N. M. U." just released by the union. It bears out completely the charge made last week by the union's president Joseph Curran, that the Dies Committee is a union busting agency, for, it is taking the stories of these shipowner-paid spies—men hired to smash the union as the gospel truth and admissible testimony.

The Dies Committee had apparently planned to place several more of that ousted group of spies on the stand, but the sudden arrest of its star witness, McCuiston, on a charge of murdering a union man in New Orleans, put a damper on what was scheduled to be a grand show.

The N. M. U., born out of a struggle of the seamen to free themselves from a shipowner's controlled organization—the now defunct International Seamen's Union—has had to weed out rats from its very first days. The shipowners lost the I. S. U. as an instrument, but put their hopes on getting into operation a gang that would take over the new organization.

NEARLY SEIZED CONTROL

The shipowners had progressed far and came near achieving their conspiracy. They reached as far

as getting their spy elected as secretary-treasurer of the union, and in planting several others on the union's national board and district offices. But as in all such network schemes, after one or two are exposed, the rest go. The whole business fell like a house of cards after several confessions. The spies, their records clear and undisputed, were brought one-by-one before membership meetings and expelled "for 99 years" their pictures printed in the N. M. U. Pilot as men who should be spat upon wherever they are met.

Today Mr. Martin Dies picks up this dirt, decorates it with the halo of a congressional committee, and makes these people the bearers of "authoritative information" upon which presumably legislation is to be based.

The first key man of that gang to tumble is Ray Carlucci. He was the leader of a caucus of delegates at the founding convention of the union in New York, July 1937, who had unsuccessfully planned to "take over" the union on a "clean-out-the-reds" program. His operations were going smoothly for a while, until he got so bold as to fake up a set of minutes of an alleged Communist Party meeting, gave it in as correspondence in the union's journal and modestly accompanied the material with his own photograph. Members of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, a CIO union, saw the picture and agreed that this was their man—a spy who was operating for a detective agency in their industry. Shortly afterwards the charge was sprung on the gentleman at a membership meeting of the N. M. U. and before he knew it he was out.

CARLUCCI CONTACT WON

But Carlucci, as subsequent details revealed, did not end his operation in the N. M. U. then. He continued to be the contact man for the Railway Audit and Inspection Co. one of the leading industrial spy agencies, and was revealed as agent of the Big Steel and Isth-

mian Lines.

For more than a year the union was the storm center of a factional struggle against the administration which Curran heads. The opposition included in its ranks Jerry King, Phillips, S. Lemmon, Walter Carney, and others who have managed to creep into high positions.

The newspapers, especially the New York Post, gave this gang all the help it wanted. King was pictured as the man who would soon be head of the union, by the Post. His statements were given prominence and glowing biographical sketches were of him were featured, in that "liberal" paper.

A "Mariners' Club" with a "clean-out-the-reds" program appeared on the waterfront. It issued an expensive newspaper called the "Rank and File Pilot." The mystery of the financial source stamped the outfit as an outside agency from the start. But the group covered itself under a claim that it is fighting for "democracy" and against "Communists." It brought to its aid the Trotskyites and Lovestonites to help them put on the proper trimmings for a "rank and file" front.

BASE BALL BAT RAID

One phase of the union's factional struggle was an invasion by this group of gangsters of the union's offices armed with baseball bats, and taking command while ballot counting was going on. But despite the tricks, gangsterism and newspaper aid, the Curran administration defeated the opposition.

Shortly after the elections, the thieves began to fall out fast. The first confession came from Octave Loones who was editor of the "Rank and File Pilot." Another came later from Walter Carney, who was secretary-treasurer of the Deck Division. The latter was arrested on discovery by the union that he has been engaged in wholesale racketeering in union books and assessment receipts. Having thus broken a parole, he was due for a long "rap" in the Tombs. His confession was on a hope of leniency.

The substance of both confessions, given in extensive detail in "Labor Spies in the N. M. U." is that King (whose real name was found to be Medeiros) Phillips, Loons, Lemmon, Carney, and several others were an inner group in the opposition caucus who met with the shipowners at the offices of the Standard Oil and later at hotels. Carney wrote the following in one of his confession letters from the Tombs:

"The last meeting in the George Washington Hotel, Mr. R. Hague & Co. had pooled their money with R. Hague as payoff man for the steamship owners and J. King as collector for our group, it was thought best after arrangements had been made to discontinue the meetings at the hotel and to produce per agreement the arrangements as detection was possible and were a-scared of being seen together.

"Naturally, plans were made to gather material, set up the club and start the ballot and newspaper 'Rank and File Pilot' and set the campaign in motion, the Seagull button, an inspiration of Hennessey, was got in thousand lots and the Railroad Audit Co. gathered material on subversive unAmerican activities in the marine industry. Caucuses were held, the Mariner Club was opened, and members were recruited and the 'Rank and File Pilot' was issued on the waterfront and mailed to shipowner lists and members of Congress, Dies Committee and others.

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At subsequent caucuses at Commodore Hotel, Carney continued, the plan to disrupt and break up meetings was organized, as was the base-ball bat invasion of the union's headquarters. He added:

"Expert advice was given by professionals of the Railroad Audit Co. Agency. The raid on the fifth floor offices was planned there and ten cent baseball bats were were bought for that purpose."