

# LABELS 28 LEADERS OF N. M. U. AS REDS

## McCuistion Tells Dies Group Small Minority Maintains Control From Key Posts

## DIES ASKS 2 MORE YEARS

## Resolution Introduced in House Would Continue Inquiry, With Report in January, 1942

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 1—A description of the manner in which the Communist party is alleged to dominate the National Maritime Union was given to the House Committee on Un-American Activities today by William C. McCuistion, who testified for the third day before the committee.

As he testified two police officers sat near by, his guards while he is being held in jail here on a fugitive warrant issued on a complaint by the police of New Orleans that he is wanted there in connection with investigation of the slaying in September of Philip Carey, an N. M. U. official.

The testimony of Mr. McCuistion was interrupted as the committee heard his mother, Mrs. Dolly Crawford of Frederick, Md., tell of conversations in which she said Joseph Curran, head of the N. M. U., told her he believed the Communist party would be able to take over the Federal Government peacefully through filtration of Communists into the ranks of government service and utilities.

### Says "Reds" Hold Key Places

Mr. McCuistion asserted that "the personnel of the New York office" of the N. M. U. was between 85 and 90 per cent Communist, although he estimated that only 7 per cent of the 40,000 members of this C. I. O. union were members of or sympathizers with that party.

This control is maintained, he said, because the 1,500 or 2,000 members in New York actually control the elections, and that among them the Communists are able to control a solid group of some 400 sympathizers, "including many men who really work as waiters in restaurants or in the fur district."

"Whenever non-Communists are elected by referendum among the whole membership," he said, "they are removed on charges by a packed meeting of about 1,500 members in New York."

Mr. McCuistion admitted that not all important positions are held by Communists, and when Rhea Whitley, committee counsel, read a list of thirty-seven officers, the witness labeled these twenty-eight as Communists or "fellow-travelers."

Mr. Curran; Ferdinand C. Smith, vice president, and Frederick N. Meyers, H. C. McKenzie, Neil Hanley and John Lawrence; James Drury of Mobile; K. K. Owen and Fred Halstrip of Galveston; John Moutal of Portland, Me.; Ralph Rogers, West Coast; Ted Lewis; Bill Currott of Corpus Christi, Texas; James B. Merrill, Gulf District; Adrian Duffy, Eddie Platt and Mack Lee of New Orleans; Rex Stout of Panama; Hays Jones, Great Lakes District; George Kuch of Port Arthur, Texas; Frank Jones of Miami; John Rogan of Puerto Rico; a Mr. McGowan, Red Hawks and D. L. Gavin of Boston; H. H. Bender and J. Alberts of Norfolk, and James Edwards of Florida.

Others on the list were George Hearn, secretary-treasurer; Septimus Rutherford, Barney Lynch, John Payone and James Purcell, Sam Wilson of Houston, Richard Durgin of Providence, John Murray of Philadelphia, J. R. Walker of Savannah and E. Watson of Tampa, Fla.

When Mr. Whitley finished reading the list, Mr. McCuistion said it did not include more than a third of the total officer roster of the N. M. U.

### Tells of Enlisting in Spain

The witness said he broke with the Communist element in the union early in 1937 and subsequently enlisted, under Communist auspices, for service with the Loyalist forces in Spain, "to see how the ideology worked out there." At the end of that service, he added, he obtained an office in the Gulf of Mexico division of the Maritime Union.

The national headquarters of the N. M. U., Mr. McCuistion went on, attempted to oust him from that office, and finally succeeded. He told the committee the Communists would wreck any movement "rather than lose control of it."

Later in his testimony, he said several attempts were made on his life in France after he had told his Communist superiors he was through with the movement.

He brought a laugh from the committee when he said that Mr. Curran told him after the Dies committee began to function that "we will have that Martin Dies so thor-

oughly discredited in a few months that his home town people will ride him out of town on a rail."

While Mrs. Crawford was testifying she told the committee that Mr. Curran had visited her home in Frederick early in 1937 with her son and a Joseph Curran, a body-guard.

She had first met the seamen's leader, she said, in New York in the Summer of 1936, and she told of going back to New York to inquire about her son when the latter was in Spain with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

### Says Son Was Threatened

Mrs. Crawford told the committee that when she got "rather militant" with officials of the brigade, who refused to divulge the whereabouts of her son, a man named Bill Lawrence told her, "We have no further use for your son, and if I have anything to say about it he is not coming back."

As the final episode in today's series of events surrounding Mr. McCuistion's testimony, the Department of Justice continued its investigation, at the request of the Dies committee, on the basis of allegations that his civil liberties are in jeopardy.

The witness spent an hour and a half at the department, where he told Henry Schweinhaut, chief of the Civil Liberties Unit, a story of alleged harassment and threats by the N. M. U. over a period of a year and a half. The department announced later that every care would be taken in investigating his complaints.

### Dies Asks for Two Years More

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1—Chairman Dies asked the House today to grant two years more time to his committee investigating un-American activities.

He introduced a resolution by which the committee would have until Jan. 3, 1942, to complete its investigation and make a report. There was no request for additional funds, but the committee, nearing the end of its original \$125,000 appropriations, had announced previously that more would be sought.

Joseph Curran sent a registered letter yesterday to Chairman Dies asserting that the N. M. U. had offered a reward of \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for Carey's murder, and adding:

"McCuistion was one of an organized gang which traveled through the various ports of the Gulf area and 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 27-year-old Philip Carey, National Maritime Union official, in New Orleans on Sept. 17."

Mr. Curran added that the union had no desire to be a party to the violation of civil rights of any individual, "nor do we feel that your committee is justified in suggesting that we have failed in that respect."

The letter repeated the text of a telegram sent two days ago, when Mr. Curran stated his desire to cooperate in every way with the Dies committee.

### Boston Leader Denies Label

By The Associated Press.

BOSTON, Nov. 1—Thomas McGowan, local agent for the National Maritime Union, declared tonight that the chairman of the Dies committee had "turned stooge for the shipowners and is utilizing money of the American people for a campaign to smash their unions."

In a statement he denied charges made by William McCuistion that he, D. L. Gavin of Boston, John Moutal of Portland, Me., or "Red" Hawks were Communists.