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DIES SURRENDERS WITNESS TO COPS

Committee Then Moves
to Safeguard Murder
Suspect's Rights

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 (UP).—
After he had completed his testi-
mony today, the Dies Committee
turned over to Washington police
William C. McCuiston, a former
Communist wanted for questioning
in a New Orleans murder.

The committee then adopted a
resolution calling on the Justice
Department's civil liberties unit
to investigate the charges against
the witness. Chairman Dies (Dem.,
Tex.) accused Communist leaders
and officials of the National Mari-
time Union of seeking to deprive
McCuiston of his civil rights and
of attempting to discredit the com-
mittee investigating un-American
activities.

O. John Rogge, Assistant Attorney
General, said that the Department

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DIES PROBE GIVES WITNESS TO COPS BUT HELPS HIM

McCuistion Surrendered on Murder Charge in New Orleans

Continued from Page One

of Justice would investigate the case thoroughly.

McCuistion was turned over to Inspector Horace Lineburg, head of the un-American squad of the Washington Detective Bureau, who promised to carry out the instructions of the committee.

Charged With Murder

At the same time Chief of Detectives John Grosch announced in New Orleans that McCuistion had been charged with murder in connection with the slaying there September 17 of Philip Carey, National Maritime Union official. McCuistion formerly was an officer of the N. M. U. in New Orleans.

Carey, twenty-six-year-old secretary-treasurer of the N. M. U. Gulf District, was beaten with a chain by three men, then shot. Grosch said Federal authorities would return McCuistion to New Orleans. His arrest, first in the murder investigation, came on a tip from Joseph Curran, president of the N. M. U., Grosch said.

The former N. M. U. organizer was booked at Washington Police Headquarters as a fugitive from justice. There was some confusion about his name as the one given on the New Orleans warrant was made out in the name of McCuistion. The witness, however, was booked as William C. McCuistion, the name he gave the Dies Committee. He gave his age as thirty-seven, his home as Frederick, Md., and his occupation as seaman.

McCuistion told reporters he knew nothing about the crime and said he would not fight extradition. As bail is not permissible in the case, the witness was ordered held in jail until he departs for New Orleans.

Dies told Inspector Lineburg that the committee desired to question the witness further and was assured that McCuistion would be in Washington for at least two days.

Became Anti-Communist

McCuistion had told the committee that after working with the Communist Party seventeen years he returned from Spain last year an avowed anti-Communist and was threatened by his former colleagues.

Reading a prepared statement, Dies said that investigation showed that McCuistion had been constantly in touch with the New York office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for several months before and since the slaying, and that neither the Washington police nor the FBI had any "wanted notices" about the former sailor.

Representative Starnes (Dem., Ala.) assailed the whole procedure against McCuistion as "not only sordid but contemptible."

"I think this is a patent effort on the part of certain groups who are trying to paint themselves lily white to discredit the committee," Starnes declared. "This whole thing not only smells to high heaven but it stinks."

Dies said that police officials told him they first heard that New Orleans police wanted McCuistion in a telephone call from National Maritime officials in New York and from the Washington representative of the N. M. U.

Dies said he believed the interest in McCuistion was "for the purpose of having him arrested in the committee room to discredit his testimony."

"If shipping interest," Dies added, "had been as active in bringing about this man's apprehension under these circumstances, there would have been a hue and cry throughout the country."

McCuistion, who testified yesterday about alleged Communist domination of the National Maritime Union and several other seamen's organizations, related today of his experiences with Communists in foreign countries after his visit to Spain during the civil war there.

He had told the committee that George Mink, whom he described as a Soviet military intelligence agent, was the power in maritime labor unions in this country and that Harry Bridges, C. I. O. West Coast maritime union chief, was second in command.

Describes Activities

The Communist party, he said, maintains an organizer on "every passenger ship on a regular run" in the American Merchant Marine.

"In the course of a year," he said, "the party will have an organizer on every ship at one time or another."

He testified that the Communist Party began a school in New York in 1936, during the seamen's strike, "to train men to carry on Communist Party work on the waterfront." He said he believed that the school, shifting its site frequently, still existed.

McCuistion testified that the Communists wanted to end the 1936 maritime strike as soon as possible because "they were fighting for a lost cause," but that Joseph Curran, president of the National Maritime Union, wanted to prolong it.

Several Communist leaders, he said, wanted to "send Curran out to sea again and elect him out of office."

Made Profit on Meetings

Curran had denied knowledge of the "Communist school" in testifying before the committee but McCuistion said Curran knew of the school.

Curran, he said, conferred with Communist leaders during the 1936 spring strike because he felt the party's support was necessary to make the strike successful.

The party, McCuistion said, openly financed the strike but secretly made a profit by holding out on receipts from meetings and donations.

The witness said that when he returned from Spain in 1938 he was subjected to strong pressure from

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Curran and others to abandon his anti-Communist attitude.

"They said that if I didn't, I'd better get off the waterfront or I'd become a floater. They meant I'd become one of those people found floating around the bay."

Tells of Attacks

Once, he said, he was "beaten up pretty bad"; a second time he was "attacked"; and a third time, in New York City, he was attacked with a knife. He blamed Communists as the assailants.

"Even before I got back from Spain, Joe Curran told my mother I'd better line up with the right people," he said.

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