

# Who —is— McCuistion?

Who is this man McCuistion?

William McCuistion first became known among seamen during the early days of the Marine Workers Industrial Union. Being a good speaker and having a flair for the limelight, he was able to establish himself as a leader on the waterfront. At that time he was not suspected as being a shipowners' stoopigeon, but it was generally understood that he was an unreliable character and

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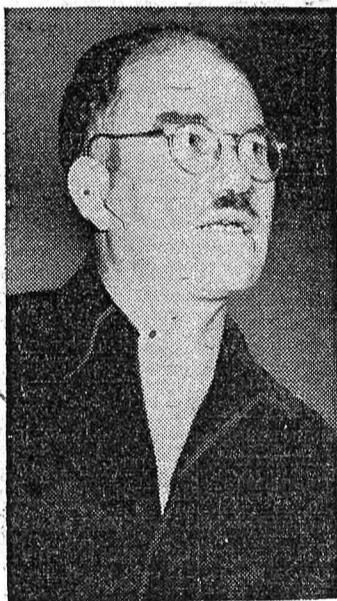
caused much unnecessary trouble.

McCuistion is known not to have gone to sea since the 1937 strike, and very little since the Spring of 1936.

Following the 1937 Strike, McCuistion went to Spain and signed up with the Loyalist army. He soon got into trouble with his superior officers, however, and on more than one occasion he was accused of being in the services of the enemy. Shortly after his arrival in Spain his activities made it necessary for his superior officers to assign him to duty behind the lines, where he worked in a laundry and did sanitary work. After about 10 months in Spain he deserted. Following his desertion, he showed up in Le Havre, France, where later he was able to stow-away and return to Norfolk, Va.

On his return to America he immediately became active in the Mariners' Club, and Ray Carlucci, later exposed and expelled from the Union as a labor spy, was one of his closest associates. He testified in behalf of Carlucci at his trial; attempted to prove that Carlucci was an honest rank and filer who was only interested in combatting Communism.

Following Carlucci's exposure and the break-up of



McCuistion

the Mariners' Club, McCuistion went to the Gulf. After one trip back to New York with Jerome King (Medeiros), he insinuated himself into the confidence of the now expelled Gulf District Committee and secured a job as Gulf PILOT correspondent. The PILOT editorial board refused to confirm his appointment, however, because of his previous anti-union activities. McCuistion's next move was to secure an appointment from the Gulf District to "organize" the Texas Fishermen, where he and Robert Gertov spent more than one thousand dollars of the Union's money but

organized no one. The National Council fired him.

After his unsuccessful attempt to secure a job with the Union, McCuistion became more openly associated with the SIU, and is known to have been the leader of the organized goon squads whose reign of terror resulted in brutal beatings and finally culminated in the murder of John Synchronick and Brother Phillip Carey.

During his stay in New Orleans, McCuistion was to be found in the Old French Quarter, where he managed to stay drunk most of the time. He was arrested for several minor offenses such as drunkenness, attacking honest seamen, and making a general nuisance of himself. He was seen in the company of Red Dean, SIU organizer, on many occasions, and spent most of his time (when sober) writing and mimeographing anti-NMU literature.

Following the Second National Convention McCuistion came out into the open as an advocate of the SIU, and devoted his energies (when sober) toward this end. Throughout the Gulf, wherever the NMU was having trouble, McCuistion was to be found.

His final stand in testifying before the Dies Committee was not unexpected.