

Anti-Union Campaign Laid to Dies

NEW YORK, Nov. 6.—The Dies Committee is using "discredited ex-Communists and felons for the purpose of creating a smoke screen of communism over the members and officials of the National Maritime Union to turn the general public against the seamen and the progressive trade-union movement," Joseph Curran, NMU president, charged in a letter today.

The letter was addressed to President Roosevelt, the Cabinet, and all members of Congress.

"Witnesses like William C. McCuiston (now under arrest for the murder of Philip Carey, NMU official in New Orleans on September 17), a habitual drunkard, a Communist, a person with a questionable record," says the letter, "show how far the one-sided inquiry has gone."

"The National Maritime Union, its members and officers, on behalf of whom I speak, are not Communists," the letter continues

SHIPOWNERS' RECORD

In answer to allegations that the union might sabotage merchant ships, Curran asserts:

"The National Maritime Union will not tolerate the undermining of the American merchant marine nor will it harbor and protect enemies of the country."

"Instead of trying to whip up American public opinion into a frenzy of hysteria against trade unions about plots against American shipping," the letter adds, "it would be well for the committee to look into the activities of the un-American shipowners, who, for years, have been operating a majority of their ships under foreign flags and employing alien seamen, while at the same time, accepting subsidies from the U. S. government for their ships sailing under the American flag."

GOOD AMERICANS

In refutation of testimony questioning the loyalty of the union's membership to the American government and the flag, the letter points out that many members and officers of the NMU are World War veterans, and Naval Reserve and ex-servicemen.

"Being a good union man does not make a man a bad American. On the contrary, it makes him a better member of that larger union—the United States of America."

"We state, unequivocally, that we will be among the first to defend our country against any and all enemies, regardless who they may be."

Drunks, Criminals Are Dies' Tools, NMU Charges

Union Tells Roosevelt It Seeks to Build Up Merchant Marine, Declares Shipowners Are Guilty of Un-Americanism

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PROBE SHIPOWNERS

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After again accusing the committee of permitting "irresponsible persons" to tell deliberate lies, which become public record without any effort to check up on these statements, the letter declares:

"Unless under democratic process they (the committee) permit persons accused to make an answer in the same manner as accusations are made, this whole process is un-American, and it is time this fantastic farce being conducted by Congressman Dies at public expense be discontinued."

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