

ACTION ON BRIDGES IN CONGRESS LIKELY

Dec 31/39
Deportation Is Demanded by
Senator King Despite the
Finding of Dean Landis

MUCH SURPRISE VOICED

Dempsey Cites Dies Testimony
—Miss Perkins Is Expected
to Cancel Warrant

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30—The door to possible deportation of Harry R. Bridges, Australian-born West Coast C. I. O. leader, appeared tonight to have been closed by the finding of Dean James M. Landis of Harvard Law School that he is not a Communist, but there were indications that the decision might have repercussions in Congress.

The reaction of legislators already here for the session beginning next week was varied, but some were frankly incredulous that Dean Landis, who sat as a special Labor Department examiner in the Bridges case, could have cleared him of any affiliation with the Communist party.

Representative Dempsey, New Mexico, Democrat, commented that the House Committee on un-American Activities had "rather conclusive" testimony that Mr. Bridges had been a Communist and should be deported.

Voiding of Warrant Expected

But Senator Burke, Nebraska, Democrat, one of the group of lawmakers who have urged that Bridges be deported, while saying that he was "rather surprised," declared that "I must assume that Dean Landis examined the evidence very carefully in every way."

Senator Capper, Kansas, Republican, a member of the Senate Immigration Committee, said he would be "a little doubtful" of the Landis conclusion, but that he did not know whether it was of sufficient importance "for Congress to dig into it."

It was accepted at the Capitol as a foregone conclusion that Secretary Perkins would not reject the findings of Dean Landis, in the absence of some development indicating that he had been misled during the long hearings he conducted on the West Coast.

If Miss Perkins accepts the report the deportation warrant issued against Mr. Bridges in March, 1938, will be canceled. The warrant was based on the allegation that he was a Communist.

King Demands Ousting

By The United Press.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30—Senator King, Utah Democrat, demanded today that Harry R. Bridges be deported as an "undesirable alien" despite the report by Dean Landis.

"The opinion of Mr. Landis is just what I expected," Senator King asserted. "I tried to follow the testimony as it was reported in the press and I have been in California when Mr. Bridges was raising the devil. Undoubtedly Mr. Bridges is not an American and is not in sympathy with our system and should be deported as an undesirable alien." The Senator appeared to place little credence in testimony by Mr. Bridges which Dean Landis declared established the C. I. O. leader as "energetically radical" but not a Communist.

"There are a lot of people who for one reason or another profess not to be members of the Communist party," said Senator King. "Nevertheless they are in sympathy with the Soviet system and seek the overthrow of the bourgeoisie system and its capitalistic government and should be regarded as opposed to the American system."

Senator Albert D. Thomas, Senator King's Utah colleague, took a directly opposite view of the case.

"I am very glad the matter is cleared up," he said. "So far as any deportation proceedings are concerned, it is a good thing to have this issue of communism cleaned up. I don't think we should deport anybody because of his political beliefs. I think most people agree with that, although I'm afraid there are some who do not."

To Push for Citizenship

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30 (UP)—Harry R. Bridges announced tonight that he would push his move for American naturalization and expressed the hope that industrial peace "can be speedily realized."

In a statement hailing the report by Dean Landis as a victory for all labor, he said:

"I hope it is now possible for the employers to sit down with the unions and work out their problems in a sensible fashion. I hope that now employers will put disproved slanders behind them. If they do this, the unions' earnest desire for industrial peace can be speedily realized."

He reiterated that he was not a Communist and that he believed in American democracy.

"I have long desired to become an American citizen," he said. "It should now be obvious, through the disclosures of the proceedings, why I have been unable to fulfill that desire. Now that the obstacles have been cleared away, I shall seek naturalization at the earliest possible opportunity."

He declared the "tremendous significance" of the Landis decision overshadowed his own personal feelings in the outcome.

"It should now be clear that there was nothing personal in the case," he added. "I was on trial, but labor was the defendant. Labor fought the case and won. To the thousands of union men and women who gave their aid in time and money, I can best express appreciation by saying: 'It is your victory.'"

Counsel Hails Finding

Mr. Bridges has taken out preliminary naturalization papers three times. Twice he allowed the proceeding to lapse, but took out first papers again a few months ago.

Richard Gladstein, chief of defense counsel in the deportation proceedings, said of the Landis finding:

"Only a person of the highest integrity and intelligence would have the courage and ability to vindicate Bridges of charges against him in the face of tremendous pressure in the nation to deport him."

The Bridges defense committee, to which longshoremen and movie

stars alike contributed, issued a statement in a similar vein through Estolv E. Ward. It said:

"The report of Dean Landis is not only a vindication of Bridges * * * it is a vindication of a quarter of a million human beings on the Pacific Coast who have found in militant trade unionism the answer to employer oppression.

"The decision halts the merciless employer attack on the union from one angle. However, the employers are still as determined as ever to crush the union. They still have their Larry Doyles, their Captain Keegans, their John L. Leeches, their Aaron Sapiros and their Major Lawrence Milners (all of these were prosecution witnesses in the deportation proceedings)."

Sapiro Insists He Told Truth

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 30 (UP)—Aaron Sapiro, Los Angeles lawyer who was severely criticized in Dean Landis's report on the Bridges case, said today:

"There is no comment I can make. I told the truth. I am sorry Mr. Landis didn't believe me—he should have."

Keegan Criticizes "Setup"

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 30 (UP)—Captain John J. Keegan, chief of detectives, commenting on the decision of Dean Landis, declared today that he expected nothing else with "the setup."

"It is the opinion of those connected with the case that Landis was sent out here for a white-wash," he said.

R. P. Bonham, Seattle district immigration director, criticized by Dean Landis as offering to help a convicted murderer, Earl King, obtain his freedom from prison in exchange for testimony against Mr. Bridges, commented:

"King's friends claim he had been framed on a murder charge. District attorneys are in the habit of doing things that Landis charged. No improper attention had been given King. When I was asked to testify, I was supposed to tell the truth and did so."

Green Condemns Finding

In a statement to The United Press here last night William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, said that the decision of James M. Landis on Harry Bridges was "not in accordance with the facts."

"Everybody knows Harry Bridges is a Communist," Mr. Green declared.

He was here for a dinner in honor of George Meany, retiring as president of the New York Federation of Labor to become secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L.

Tom Mooney, who is in New York for the holidays, sent a telegram to Mr. Bridges carrying "congratulations to you and the entire labor movement upon your great victory over the powerful, corrupt and unscrupulous, un-American, anti-union labor forces on the Pacific Coast which are a throw-back to the galley-slave days."

"They still think," he added, "the American worker should accept and be thankful for a Chinese coolie standard of living."

"Because of your intelligent, courageous, honest leadership of maritime labor on the Pacific Coast, which has produced a solidarity and standard of living for maritime labor never before equaled you have brought down upon your head the never-ending wrath of these powerful, anti-union, un-American forces and all their rotten hirelings, who have been trying to get rid of you for the past five years, as they did me twenty-three years ago, by 'red-herring' frame-up methods."