

TESTIMONY OF FREY CALLED 'NONSENSE'

Counsel for Transport Workers
Union Describes It as His
'Usual Rantings'

CHARGES MADE HITHERTO

Accusations Against Quill and
Others Were Contained in
A. F. L. Bulletin in 1937

The offices of the New York unions mentioned by John F. Frey, vice president of the American Federation of Labor, in his testimony yesterday before the Dies committee in Washington were closed yesterday and the men named by him as Communists or their sympathizers could not be reached for comment. Harry Sacher, general counsel for the Transport Workers Union, said at Westport, Conn., however, that the charges involving the T. W. U. were "nonsense."

"There is nothing to be said except that the thing is utterly ridiculous and characteristic of Frey's usual rantings," he asserted. Mr. Sacher seemed most stirred by Mr. Frey's insistence that Moscow directed the affairs of the union.

Mr. Frey's mention of the four T. W. U. members, including City Councilman Michael J. Quill, international head of the transit workers, duplicated a charge made in the A. F. of L. weekly news service bulletin on Aug. 22, 1937. At that time the bulletin said:

"The Transport Workers Union is headed by four leading members of the Communist party who are working under orders of the Reds to sovietize the American transit industry. . . . Since Communists work under cover, on instructions from Moscow, to 'bore from within' the American labor movement, but always vociferously deny their Red affiliation and obligations publicly, there has often been hesitancy in revealing communistic controls of certain labor organizations, in the absence of definite proof, even when such control is definitely known."

"In the case of the Transport Workers Union, a mass of documentary and other evidence has been accumulated, giving indisputable proof of communistic domination."

"Perhaps chief among the documents now on file is an affidavit duly signed by former President [Thomas] O'Shea of the Transport Workers, who has since renounced communism. The startling revelations of this sworn statement confirm other evidence available."

Listing Quill, "Dilloughery alias Hogan," Santo and McMahon, the bulletin alleged as Mr. Frey did yesterday that Santo was an assumed name.

"When Quill was named as president of the T. W. U. in January, 1935," the article further stated, "the others named retained their positions along with him as members of the leading faction of the Communist party in the Transport Workers Union."

When the United Mine Workers, John L. Lewis's own union, barred Communist members last February, the T. W. U. was among C. I. O. groups here refusing to take the same stand. A statement from the union declared that its constitution admitted to membership transport workers "without regard to sex, race, color or religious or political belief or affiliation."

Lucien Koch, as director of Commonwealth College, Mens, Ark., fell under the official scrutiny of Deputy Prosecutor Fred H. Stafford of Polk County, Arkansas, in 1935. An investigation reported that Mr. Koch presented "the Communist point of view to his students."

Marcel E. Scherer, organizer of the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians, was named as an "active Communist worker" in a story in THE TIMES on June 28, 1929, describing a meeting of the Union of Technical Men, which he had organized. Previously, he had been identified as a "former leader of the Young People's Socialist League and for several years an active worker in the Communist party."

Last month Harry Begoon was re-elected as secretary-treasurer of the Furriers Joint Council of the International Fur Workers Union, a C. I. O. affiliate, on the slate of the Communist faction of that organization. But in that election, a Jack Bernstein was a candidate on an opposition ticket. A Jack Schneider, of 1,200 Bronx Park East, the Bronx, was among six men who were indicted on May 24 on charges of conspiracy, coercion and assault in connection with the strike of fur workers.

Ben Gold has long been known as a left-wing labor leader, and is president of the International Fur Workers Union. He is generally reputed to be a Communist.

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Marcel E. Scherer, organizer of the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians, was named as an "active Communist worker" in a story in THE TIMES on June 26, 1929, describing a meeting of the Union of Technical Men, which he had organized. Previously, he had been identified as a "former leader of the Young People's Socialist League and for several years an active worker in the Communist party."

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Joseph E. Curran, president of the National Maritime Union, sent the following telegram last night to Representative Dies:

"Frey cannot prove me a Communist as I am not one. However, statements such as he has made against progressive officials of the C. I. O. who have been elected by referendum vote of the rank and file are to be expected from reactionary leadership such as is represented by Frey, who has sponsored company unions in an attempt to defeat the progressive labor movement as represented by the C. I. O. I demand proof of his statements as made before your committee and the right to publicly repudiate them."