

Helen Douglas in CIO 'Intrigue,' House Told

By Mary Spargo

Charges that the top officials of the CIO-PAC maintain dictatorial control over political activities of local unions despite Sidney Hillman's testimony to the contrary were aired yesterday before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

At the same time the names of Helen Gahagan Douglas, Hollywood figure, who was one of the principal speakers at the Democratic convention, and Senator Claude Pepper (D., Fla.) were mentioned in what was described as a "political intrigue" to defeat Senator Pat McCarran (D., Nev.), who recently won the Democratic nomination from his State despite CIO-PAC opposition.

After the hearing, Representative Ralph E. Church (R., Ill.), a member of the House Campaign Funds Committee, who was in attendance, called upon Representative Clinton P. Anderson (D., N. Mex.), chairman of his committee, to consider Hillman's previous testimony given before their group.

Hillman May Be Recalled

Church said that he told Anderson the committee should consider Hillman's sworn statements in light of the Dies hearing evidence after the Dies report is completed.

"It may be necessary to recall 'Clear Everything With Sidney Hillman,'" Church told reporters.

He disclosed that the Funds Investigating Committee will hold hearings in Chicago on October 6 and 7, calling some of the same witnesses as the Dies group will call today. Among the witnesses will be Raymond S. McKeough former Illinois Congressman and now regional director of Illinois Indiana and Wisconsin for the PAC.

Telegrams signed by McKeough and sent to officials of the PAC in the three States were introduced yesterday as evidence of the "dictatorial domination" of local CIO unions by the top figures.

"Orders" Given Locals

They read:

"Please immediately notify all locals and PAC committees through your State to positively make no political indorsements until approved by regional and national offices of CIO-PAC."

Stripling said the telegrams were sent just four days before Hillman appeared before the House Campaign Expenditures Committee and testified under oath that the National PAC did not interfere with the political freedom of local unions to indorse senatorial, congressional, State or local candidates.

Miss Gahagan, who is the wife of the motion picture actor, Melvyn Douglas, once connected with OCD, was drawn into yesterday's hearing by a telegram which the Dies Committee's chief investigator, Robert E. Stripling, said was among those charged to the CIO-PAC and subpoenaed by the committee.

Miss Gahagan is now the Democratic nominee in the Fourteenth California Congressional District. Pittman "Most Electible"

The telegram was addressed to Pepper and dated June 27. It read:

"If at all possible please prevail upon Vail Pittman to run against McCarran in Nevada. Everything is in his favor and he is most electible." It was signed Helen Gahagan Douglas.

Pittman did run but was defeated. Stripling said that he

would present evidence later to show that the PAC had been working quietly in Nevada for some time.

"It does seem rather strange, however," Stripling said, "that Miss Gahagan, a candidate on the Democratic ticket and one of the principal speakers at the Democratic National Convention, would engage in this sort of conspiracy in an effort to bring about the defeat of a member of the Senate, who, himself, is a member of the Democratic Party."

Stripling described individuals who are directing the California PAC as "persons of well-known

Communist ties and affiliations."

He charged that the "PAC, alias the NCPAC, is following the Communist Party line, not the 'rank and file of labor' line."

"It is a part of the revamped blueprint of the Communist Party to take over and destroy the American system of government by the taking over of a major political party."