

August 19, 1938

Affidavit of Walter Gordon

My name is Walter Gordon; living at 117 Stedman Street, Brookline, Massachusetts. I am engaged as a publisher.

In the spring of 1938, I met Edward F. Sullivan on Park Street, Boston, about noon. I had known Mr. Sullivan casually for six or seven years. My first contact with him was on the Boston Common in 1932 where he was addressing a group near the Parkman Band Stand on the distinction between Roman Catholicism and "National Catholicism". He was an adherent of the "National Catholic Church", opposing the Roman hierarchy. I asked him a few questions concerning "National Catholicism" and after his informal discourse he came over to me and elaborated on an answer he had previously given to my question. From that time we have seen each other several times and our conversations usually centered around labor and union activities. Mr. Sullivan's opinion on this subject was anti-labor and anti-union.

Until our most recent meeting, I had not seen Mr. Sullivan for about two years. He inquired as to what I was doing and what I had been doing and I explained that I had gone to sea in September of 1937 and in the course of our conversation he inquired as to which seamen's union I had affiliated myself. I told him, the National Maritime Union. Mr. Sullivan commented that the National Maritime Union was a "Jew-controlled, Communist" organization and he expressed surprise that I, a "white man", would associate with such a radical organization. I explained to Mr. Sullivan that I thought he had been grossly misinformed as to the leadership of the National Maritime Union and the principles of trade unionism which are diametrically opposed to the principles of Communism. He stated that he had irrefutable evidence that Joseph Curran, General Organizer of the National Maritime Union, was on the pay-roll of the Communist Party headquarters in New York, and that his position as General Organizer of this union had been subsidized by the Communist Party. I told Mr. Sullivan that I did not think this to be possible because I had heard Mr. Curran's opinion expressed before the membership at a joint meeting as to what his position was relative to Communism and trade unionism. Mr. Sullivan then stated that all key positions held in the National Maritime Union were occupied by "Jew-Communists" and that they had worked themselves into these positions for the purpose of controlling the organization in the event of national conflict and that they would "paralyze the merchant marine service at the command of Moscow". I had explained that my observation during my connection with the National Maritime Union could not substantiate his statement as there are very few Jews holding any vital

positions and that I thought that his source of information was very unreliable. He then suggested that it would be to my advantage to change my opinion and to "come around to his way of thinking as the prevailing opinion concerning the National Maritime Union was in accord with his (Sullivan's)"; that he would make it worth my while if I would write a statement in which I would say that because of the union becoming overrun with Communists and because I did not shape up with the Communists in the union that I was forced to leave the Union, and that he would collaborate with a few ideas of his own which would make the story more appealing to the group to which he was working for. I told Mr. Sullivan that his proposition did not interest me as there would be no semblance of truth to any such statement made by me and that it would be very difficult to substantiate a statement so out of proportion to the facts. He asked me for my telephone number, which I gave him, and said that he would like to have me meet a few of his friends who might be able to induce me to see things in the "proper light". I left Mr. Sullivan in front of the Waldorf Restaurant in Park Street after this conversation and I have not seen nor heard of him until his pictures appeared in the Boston newspapers during the week of August 14, 1938.

It is my opinion, from my association with Mr. Edward F. Sullivan, that he is very unscrupulous and that his "services" are available to the highest bidder.

(Signed) Walter E. Gordon

Then personally appeared the above named Walter Gordon and made oath that the foregoing statements by him subscribed are true to the best of his knowledge and belief, before me, this 19th day of August, 1938.

(Signed) William A. Thurman

Notary Public