

ANTI-RED "PARTY" HOPES TO TEACH MAYOR A LESSON

"Commander" Says Acceptance of Communist Support Will Burn Fingers

By **KARL HELM**

The Anti-Communist Party was open for business today in a \$84-a-week parlor suite at the Commodore.

In it were the press agent and a tall lady in a stunning silver fox. She was about to depart.

"Remember," she was saying, "you are to call upon me to do anything. Washing windows. Scrubbing floors. . ."

She smiled charmingly, and was gone. The press agent rubbed the back of his neck.

Speaks for "Commander"

"It's not politics," said the stately man. "It's to carry out an ideal. Real American form of government. With special privilege to none. Even if"—he unbent to show it was a joke. "Even if they wear their hair long."

But the party's purpose, as announced yesterday, he was reminded, was "to oppose the re-election of Mayor LaGuardia."

"Americanism" the Answer

The stately man mused a moment. "Prove your Americanism," he said, "and we're behind you."

"Law and order," the press agent put in, "is our motto."

"Yes." The stately man took him up. "Let a bunch of good Americans get together for a meeting and what do you have? A lot of cops with guns and clubs.

"But let the Communists have a meeting and the cops stand around in their white gloves. Just stand around. There you are!"

Fumbles the Ball

Did the American Liberty League have anything to do with this? The stately man fumbled a minute.

"The Commander and some Legionnaires . . ." He stopped. "You'd better see the Commander about that, young man."

The "Commander" turned out to be Edward Elwell Spafford, an investment lawyer, with offices at 29 Broadway. National Commander of the American Legion in 1927-28.

The "Commander" was not very talkative.

Queried on Communists

He was asked how many Communists there were in New York. His firm jaw snapped.

"I don't know. No one else does. But"—he leaned forward to emphasize the point—"during the Legion convention you didn't see any of them around on their soap-boxes, did you? Showing off?"

He relaxed a moment, then shot forward again.

The greatest crowd New York ever saw for that Legion parade. What did they go to it for? Not, you can bet, to see Communists!"

Not Inspired by Legion

Mr. Spafford was asked if the Legion convention, then, had inspired the formation of the Anti-Communist Party.

"No," he snapped. "What inspired us was that one of the candidates accepted the indorsement of the so-called Communist Party."

Could he, by any chance, be referring to Mayor LaGuardia

"Young man, I mentioned no names. Remember that."

An Annapolis Man

Mr. Spafford is nearing sixty. He graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy. Resigned from the navy in 1914, went back in it for the World War. He was one of the American Legion's earliest enthusiasts.

Who were the Legionnaires, if any, who were associated with him and his party?

"Well," he said, after a moment of thought, "I don't see any reason why you can't mention Dick O'Neil. Medal of Honor Man. A real hero."

Did the "Commander" think there really were many Communists in New York?

Predicts "Finger-Burning"

"There are not enough to worry me. Any one who accepts their indorsement is crazy. Any one who does is going to get his fingers burned. And burned plenty!"

Was the Anti-Communist Party formed just for the municipal election?

"You never can tell," replied the "Commander," when you are sowing seeds what kind of a crop you will raise.

"But," he added, signaling the end of the interview, "we are going to give them a lesson. We're going to put them up there—" he gestured vaguely upward, "for anybody to see who ever thinks of doing such a thing again."

Praised Mussolini

Social Registerite, Commander of the Order of the Crown of Italy, Commander of the Order of the Phoenix of Greece, Mr. Spafford lives at 14 East Sixty-third Street.

He was last in the news on September 12, when, before 1,000 cheering members of the Italian-American Society of Red Bank, N. J., he declared that "Premier Mussolini would not tolerate piracy in the Mediterranean," and he "stood high in the regard of all thinking people."