

Fascist Boasts of Armed Calif. Gang

By Jack Young
(Special to the Daily Worker)

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 2.—An "Honor Guard" of 582 fascist thugs stands ready to carry out the fifth column program of Richard Franklin and his "American Union Alliance," it was claimed here today.

That program, according to Franklin, includes supporting John L. Lewis and Earl Warren, Republican candidate for governor, and hanging "every Communist and CIO organizer in California to the highest tree we can find."

The claim of the small Fascist army was made by L. L. Drouet, one of Franklin's henchmen, in a letter to The People's World in which he said that "I hope for your sakes and safety that I am not forced to swing my HONOR GUARD into action in a violent manner."

PROBE LAUNCHED

The letter came special delivery on the day that the Federal Department of Justice launched its investigation of Franklin and his organization on the basis of facts supplied by The People's World.

In the same envelope was a letter from one George E. Mullins, who boldly boasted that "as Research Director of this movement (AUA) I personally obtained witnesses for the Bridges hearing in San Francisco."

BOASTS OF SPYING

Apparently taking great pride in being a labor spy, Mullins said further:

"For several years we have furnished from our files and from our membership valuable information and witnesses to all Federal agencies combatting communism notably the FBI, the Dies Committee and the Immigration service."

Drouet's letter was written on the stationery of the "Cannon Employees' Association, Inc.," where he is identified as "chairman personnel & occupational committee."

Drouet has issued a statement threatening violence and murder. "This statement is backed up by an HONOR GUARD of 582 men whom I have trained myself and who regard Mr. Franklin as a great American who will certainly, along with John L. Lewis, J. Edgar Hoover, Martin Dies, etc., be one of the outstanding world figures of the post war era."

Mullins wrote that "your threat in yesterday's issue to bring about an investigation of our leader, Richard Franklin, and his immediate associates is indeed laughable."

(But the local United States Attorney, William Fleet Palmer, has started such an investigation.)

WORKED FOR DIES

Mullins then brags about his informer's work for the Dies committee and against Harry Bridges, California director of the CIO.

Mullins makes no further mention of his work as a stoolpigeon, but continues:

"Mr. Franklin omitted one of his outstanding heroes from his letter. J. Edgar Hoover is certainly one of the greatest of all Americans and is one of our ideals. He requests that I correct this oversight on his part."

(Besides John L. Lewis and Martin Dies, other "ideals" Franklin listed in his original letter to The People's World included Earl Warren, Republican candidate for governor; Max Ward, a strike-breaking publisher and Republican candidate for Congress; Wallace Ware, Republican candidate for state attorney-general; defeatist Congressmen John M. Costello and Leland Ford.)

The letter concludes, "Yours, till that great May Day arrives," and is signed by George E. Mullins.

The latter seems to be a reference to Franklin's letter in which he said that "we hope to celebrate the first May Day following the war by hanging Earl Browder in Pershing Square with greaseball Pettis Perry hanging on his left side and at Phil Connelly on his right."

(Browder is the national secretary of the Communist Party; Perry is the Communist chairman in Los Angeles, and Connelly is the state CIO president and secretary of the Los Angeles CIO Industrial Union Council.)

The original Franklin letter revealing his Fascist intrigue was written on the legal form of Attorney Joseph Lewis, who told me that he had supplied it to Franklin.