

# Merry-Go- Round

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4/8/42

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Deadliest testimony against the Vinson-Smith bill to repeal the 40-hour week did not come from WPB Chief Donald Nelson or labor leaders Bill Green and Phil Murray, though the trio got the headlines. It came from one of the most militant advocates of the measure.

He was Mervyn K. Hart, head of the New York State Economic Council, who appeared as a witness for the legislation. But his testimony quickly turned into a stinging boomerang when Representative Mike Bradley, of Pennsylvania, started grilling Hart about his background.

Among other things, Hart admitted:

- (1) That he had been an active foe of the Lend-Lease program;
- (2) that he had been a member of the America First Committee;
- (3) that he attended the anti-Roosevelt rally in Madison Square Garden, at which Fritz Kuhn and other Bundists were present, and
- (4) that his organization advocated disfranchising relief workers.

While admitting that his organization had "participated" in the New York meeting, Hart vehemently denied any relations with the Bund.

"Fritz Kuhn wasn't invited," Hart declared. "He just happened to show up."

"Has your organization ever advocated disfranchising WPA workers and other people on relief?" asked Bradley.

"Yes, we believed that such people shouldn't have the right to vote."

There were two very red faces in the committee room when Hart concluded his damaging testimony. They belonged to Representatives Carl Vinson of Georgia and

Howard Smith of Virginia, co-authors of the repeal bill.

**Boomerang**