

# Union Probes Liquidometer

Investigation of Hitler

Heilers Based on Union Pledge of  
Loyalty to U. S. A. 4/3/42

PM By AMOS LANDMAN

An investigation by District 4, United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers, CIO, into the presence of past and present Nazi sympathizers in the factory of the Liquidometer Corp., maker of Army and Navy supplies, is under way today.

The inquiry was voted two weeks ago by the union's General Executive Board, and a committee to conduct it was elected. Andrew McLeish, president of the district, heads the committee which includes Peter Lombardi, Charles Fay, Edward Stewart and Clayton Lang.

PM disclosed yesterday that men who had openly sung the praises of Hitler—some before Pearl Harbor and some since—were employed by Liquidometer, where they had access to information of value to the enemy. The same situation exists in other war factories. The Liquidometer Corp. is situated at 36-16 Skillman Ave., Long Island City.

Government agencies, charged with the job of preventing sabotage, yesterday declined to comment on PM's story. It was learned, however, that certain agencies began investigating conditions in the factory when they heard that PM had been looking into the situation.

The UERMW has a closed shop agreement with the Liquidometer Corp.

The committee already has begun its investigation into the Liquidometer shop, but no charges have been preferred against anyone so far.

Last night Clifford Haley, union shop chairman of the Liquidometer Corp., issued the following statement:

"As a matter of record, the union officers and members of the Liquidometer shop have had a consistent policy on the question of national defense and America's war effort. At a membership meeting held in the early part of June, 1941, a resolution was adopted condemning those elements in our shop who owe allegiance to or are in sympathy with the ideologies of the governments of the totalitarian states.

"After the treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor, the shop committee and the membership co-operated fully with the management of the Liquidometer Corp. to increase production in the shop. We even went to the extent of modifying the rate of pay specified in our union contract in order to work on Saturdays.

"Speaking for the shop committee, I can say that we will co-operate fully with any government agency conducting an investigation into the activities of anyone or any group who may be engaged in any subversive activities or who are in any way hampering production in the shop.

"It is unfortunate that the people who made these affidavits failed to follow accepted trade-union procedure and submit these charges to the appropriate union committees. By their actions, these people have given the pro-Nazi element an opportunity to cover up their anti-American activities and destroy important evidence which would be incriminating.

"As the spokesman for the workers of the shop, I want to make it clear that while doing our solemn duty in co-operating with the government agency to expose all subversive elements in the shop, we will not

tolerate any attempt by any individual or group who may have some ulterior motive in spreading disunity among the members of our union, and thereby disrupting the steady increase in production which is now taking place.

We are confident that any investigation will substantiate our conviction that the overwhelming majority of workers in Liquidometer are loyal Americans who understand the nature of this war and will strive to do their part."

The affidavits which revealed presence of Nazi sympathizers at the plant were given to officials of the union more than a week ago.

(Editors note: PM, too, believes that the majority of workers at Liquidometer and all the rest of our war plants are loyal Americans. It is only a minority of Hitler Heilers who are involved. The issue is simply the employment in vital war plants of men who have revealed their sympathies with Hitler.)