

Navy's Blacklist

Bars Radio Expert

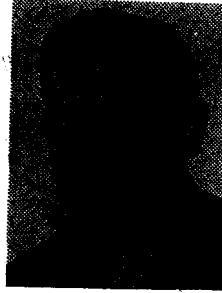
PM 6/17/42
By AMOS LANDMAN

The Navy yesterday gave Oliver Salisbury, one of nearly 100 radio operators barred from U. S. merchant ships, a hearing before its District Qualifications Board.

Salisbury and the others were beached under a law giving the Secretary of the Navy the arbitrary power to blacklist operators as "undesirable" without charges or trial.

At the opening of the hearing, this statement was read:

"Mr. Salisbury, information in the files of the Navy Dept. believed to be true



Oliver Salisbury

and reliable is to the effect that you cannot be relied upon in a position of trust under war conditions. This information has undermined the confidence of the Navy Dept. in you and in your faithfulness and loyalty in the discharge of your duties in commercial radio work. The charge in general is un-American activities."

Except for this statement, no specific charges were preferred against Salisbury. He has written to the Navy five times requesting the allegations against him, without response.

No evidence was presented against Salisbury. No complainant or accuser appeared.

Salisbury, therefore, had no chance to face, or cross-examine, his accusers, or to refute whatever evidence there may be against him.

The Board's senior officer, Comdr. Rossman J. Valentine, said frankly that the Board would make no decision in the Salisbury case. The operator will have no appeal, since there is no finding from which to appeal.

Salisbury is a vice president of the American Communications Assn. (ACA), CIO.

Salisbury admitted on cross-examination that during the period of the German-Soviet pact he doubted whether England was fighting Fascism. He denied, however, that he is a Communist.