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THE self-induced, anti-labor hysteria in Congress looks pretty shabby when the truth about the part played in stirring up "letters from the people" by the Chamber of Commerce and other such reactionary lobbyists becomes clear. The role of Ralph A. Bard, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, is also worth considering. Bard told the House Naval Affairs Committee, chaired by that inveterate union-hater, Carl Vinson, that he (Bard) "personally" favored a forty-eight-hour work week. I. F. Stone has pointed out in the newspaper *PM* that Mr. Bard enjoyed many fascist links in the past, and acted as treasurer and trustee for the anti-New Deal Crusaders, a ward of the Liberty League.

Mr. Bard has not limited himself to personal testimony. Recently he has been cutting capers in other fields. Some time ago Congress passed legislation empowering the Secretary of the Navy to discharge during this emergency any radio operator aboard any American vessel of whom the Secretary disapproved. To Mr. Bard fell the responsibility of acting for the Secretary.

On March 17 approximately ten cargo ships were lying in New York harbor because sufficient numbers of licensed radio operators could not be found. Today there are fewer licensed radio operators than there are ships. This has caused delay, and every time a ship postpones its sailing, the war against the Axis is weakened—speed, as President Roosevelt said, is of the essence. Moreover, while ten cargo ships waited in New York, similar delays occurred in other ports.

Mr. Bard's contribution to this bottleneck is in the form of a blacklist of seventy licensed radio operators, branded "subversive." On examination, it appears that Mr. Bard's definition of "subversive" is extremely flexible—and all too apparently a good union member seems to fall within his definition. "Suspects" are examined before dismissal. Here are a few of the questions that are used to determine the "subversive" character of operators: "Are you active in the union? Have you ever held office in the union? Have you refused duty when you were not paid overtime? What do you think of overtime? Do you believe in overtime? Do you belong to any Communist organizations? Are you aware that ACA [American Communications Association—CIO] is a Communist organization? What is your political philosophy? What countries do you think should be allied with the United States in this war? What did you think of the war in Spain—did you take sides? Name the officers of the union." And so on, at great length, in the same vein.

When one man answered that he thought the Soviet Union should be allied with the United States in this war, the examiner said, "So you are a Communist, after all, aren't you?"

Among those blacklisted was Murray Winocur, vice-president of the ACA. Mr. Winocur shipped out as a radio operator on a Sinclair oil tanker. As an official of the union he was employed and did not have to ship out. He did so because the sinkings of American vessels, particularly tankers, increased the danger to the lives of all seamen, and Mr. Winocur sought employment on a tanker in order to set an example to rank-and-file union members. He was ordered removed from his vessel. Because he was a union official?

So was Wayne Paschal, secretary of the Atlantic district local of the ACA. So was Chester Jordan, formerly vice-president of ACA. Because they were union officials?

Mr. Bard seems to consider unionists "subversive." That's not surprising, considering Mr. Bard's former connections and associates. But Mr. Bard, whether he knows it or not, is damaging the American war effort. And what right has a man with his connections and prejudices to hold down such a responsible job? Why is he allowed to put into practice anti-democratic Crusader ideas—overwhelmingly rejected by the American people—and thereby injure the war effort?