

U. S. CLEARS BRIDGES ON RED CHARGES

Evidence Does Not Warrant Deportation

Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins announced last night that Trial Examiner James M. Landis has found that evidence in the case of Harry Bridges, West Coast CIO leader, does not warrant his deportation on grounds that he is a Communist.

Landis, who heard evidence for several months in the Bridges case, said that his conclusions "are that the evidence does not permit the finding that Harry R. Bridges is either a member of the Communist party or affiliated with that party..."

Heads Longshoremen

In view of the lack of evidence proving that Bridges, who is head of the Longshoremen's Union on the Pacific Coast, is a Communist, Landis said he had "not deemed it necessary to find whether or not, upon the extended evidence presented by this record, that party advocates, advises, or teaches the overthrow of the Government of the United States by force or violence or causes to be written, circulated, distributed, printed, published, or displayed printed matter advising, advocating, or teaching the overthrow of the Government of the United States by force or violence."

Landis, dean of the Harvard Law School and former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, was assigned to the Bridges case after the Australian-born labor leader had been accused of being a communist by witnesses appearing before the Dies committee on unamerican activity.

In his letter transmitting the report to Miss Perkins, Landis said that his findings were "unusually long and detailed" but thought it desirable to state in full the bases which supported his conclusions.

Sets Forth Evidence

"I have, therefore, set forth substantially every item of evidence contained in the long and voluminous record and attempted to give it the weight it deserves," he wrote. "Any other method of approach seemed to me futile, for conclusions as to the credibility that such attach to the witnesses in this proceeding can be satisfactorily reached only after painstaking and minute analysis of their testimony. That process alone permits a fleeting doubt to be dismissed or to ripen into the conviction that what is paraded as truth bears the unmistakable marks of falsehood."

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