Bridges Not A Communist, Landis Finds

Examiner Reports To Miss Perkins on Deportation Action

James M. La̶n̶d̶i̶s̶, d̶e̶a̶n̶ o̶f̶ t̶h̶e̶ H̶a̶r̶-vard Law School, who presided at the deportation hearing against Harry Bridges. West Coast maritime labor leader, yesterday held the evidence does not show Bridges is a Communist or affiliated with that party.

He submitted his finding in a letter to Secretary of Labor Perkins, who selected him as special examiner to conduct the hearings. The letter was written in transmitting a 152-page report on the investigation.

Landis made no recommendation as to deportation of the Australian, who has been active in ship labor disputes on the Pacific Coast.

He said that since his conclusion was that Bridges was not a Communist or affiliated with that party, he did not deem 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. . . ."

Bridges has denied that he is a Communist.

Action Begun In 1938

The deportation proceedings against Bridges were instituted in March, 1938, on the grounds that he was a member of an organization allegedly advocating the overthrow of the Government by force and violence.

The 39-year-old CIO leader, who came into labor prominence during the 1934 maritime strikes of the West Coast, came to the United States from Australia in 1920.

The hearing afforded Bridges an opportunity to show cause why he should not be deported and the Government was faced with the obligation of proving two essential points to win its case.

It was required to prove: First, that Bridges was a member of the Communist Party or affiliated with it at the time warrant was served upon him in March, 1938. Secondly, the Government was required to prove that if Bridges was a member or was affiliated with the party that the organization advocated the overthrow of the Government by force and violence.