

Killer and Thief in FBI Camp

SAN FRANCISCO.—It would be hard to find two witnesses in the same court with blacker records than William C. McQuistion and Peter J. Innes, star prosecution witnesses in the Bridges deportation case.

McQuistion, at the time he was testifying before the Dies Committee, was arrested on suspicion of murdering Philip Carey, NMU official, in New Orleans.

Carey was attacked by three men armed with heavy logging chains. After beating him across the face with the chains, one of them shot him in the back.

They made their getaway in a car, the ownership of which was traced to Charles Degress, a member of the Jerry King (Medeiros) gang of labor spies expelled from the CIO-NMU.

Several days before McQuistion had picked a fight with Carey, and gotten the worst of it.

New Orleans' Chief of Detectives John Grosch put a positive finger on McQuistion.

"He is the man we want," said Grosch. When Dies aided McQuistion, Grosch reiterated his charge that McQuistion murdered Carey.

TOOTH AND NAIL

McQuistion fought extradition to New Orleans tooth and nail. Then he suddenly gave himself up and waved extradition. He was tried in a New Orleans court—and acquitted!

What part Congressman Dies may have played in this extraordinary procedure is not, and may never be known. The inference is obvious.

Pete Innes was also closely associated with the Jerry King gang. This outfit took thousands of dollars from Standard Oil and various steamship companies, and in return attempted to completely disrupt the NMU.

Innes was made purchasing agent for the union. The NMU charges that immediately after taking office, he sent union print-

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ing to a shop which charged higher rates than the one which had been doing the printing.

An auditing committee found later that Innes had spent \$1000 for carpentry work around the hall, but couldn't find any evidence of the work.

When the auditing committee made its report, Innes disappeared. Thereafter, he was expelled from the NMU for 99 years on charges of misusing union funds, and stealing union records.

Both Innes and McQuistion appeared before the Dies committee and were allowed to say anything they wished. Cross-examination on their stories was a farce. Newspapers seized upon their revengeful sneers of Joe Curran, NMU president and a CIO vice-president, and the NMU, and gleefully made front page stuff of it.

Evidence of lying on the stand in the Bridges case came when defense attorney Gladstein referred to McQuistion's testimony before the Dies committee.

MISTAKE?

McQuistion had said he first met Bridges at the foot of Clay St. and was introduced by a seaman named Fred Reed. But to the Dies committee, he said he had first met Bridges just before a meeting of the Maritime Federation in 1935, and that he was introduced by Roy Pyle of the radio telegraphers.

Asked why he hadn't told the Dies committee of the meeting in Reed's company, he said he probably remembered Pyle because "Fred Reed was a rank and file seaman. . . while Roy Pyle was a labor official and, as such, the emphasis was placed on the questioning before the Dies committee, on labor officials!"

McQuistion told Gladstein he had never supplied the FBI with any reports concerning union activities.

"I have given the FBI information," he said, "what I considered un-American activities in unions—and various other other places. . ."

McQuistion said he had in his possession 12 suitcases of union records, strike records, membership lists, etc., which Innes had taken from Curran's apartment. Asked whether he supplied any of these to the FBI, he answered:

"I haven't yet, but if the FBI wants anything I have got they can have them."

Another tie-up of McQuistion's labor spying activities came when he was questioned on persons with whom he had discussed his Bridges testimony. He said that during the 1939 Bridges' trial, he had talked to Sherman Lemmon, of the Maritime commission.

Sherman Lemmon, before he stepped into a job with the Maritime commission, was another member of Jerry King's group. And McQuistion testified that Lemmon had persuaded him to contact FBI agent Weeks in New Orleans.

SAN FRANCISCO.—Three witnesses against Harry Bridges in the present trial—William McQuistion, Robert St Clair and Ezra Chase—gave affidavits to the prosecution in the first trial two years ago but were not used.