'Writer's War Board' Aids Smear Campaign

Fellow Travelers Use Federal Aid to Push Congress Purge

By CHESLY MANLY

NEW YORK, June 3 (C.T.P.S.).—The Writers' War Board, which functions under the direction of the Office of Civilian Defense and uses the Government free mailing frank of the "Executive Office of the President," is participating "unofficially" in the campaign of the Communists and other totalitarians to liquidate members of Congress and intimidate newspapers that are fighting to preserve the American way of life.

Rex Stout, goat-bearded writer of murder mystery stories, whose record as a Communist fellow traveler is one of the prize exhibits of the Dies Committee on Un-American Activities, is chairman of the War Writers' Board.

Movie Star Involved

The WWB is affiliated with the OCD's Arts Council, which is headed by Melvyn Douglas, alias Hesselberg, the movie actor. Douglas also has been identified as a long-time associate of the Communists in testimony before the Dies Committee, and it is reported reliably that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has a dossier on him.

At a meeting of self-styled writers in the Fulton Theater on May 18, which was called to receive a report from members of the WWB on its functions and purposes, Stout solicited the preparation of 15-minute speeches to be used in purge campaigns against pre-war non-interventionists in Congress, notably Senator Wayland Brooks (R.), of Illinois; Representative Stephen Day (R.), of Illinois; Representative Hamilton Fish (R.), of New York, and Representative William B. Barry (D.), of New York. Stout also approved suggestions for letter-writing cam-

(Turn to Page 11, Col. 2)
Stout is a member and financial supporter of the U.D.A. Other members include George and Dorothy Schiff, owners of the New York Post, and Morris Ernst, co-founder of the New York Daily News and American newspapers, other pro-American newspapers and daily papers, all pro-American newspapers and other pro-American newspapers and American newspapers, and currently is advertising at Afford University, which is a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University, and characterizes Luce and University, his followers as American Nazis.

Also participating in the purge are Representative Harry Bridges, the New York Daily Worker, official organ of the Communist Party, Marshall Field's, otherwise known as the upper-middle-class newspaper, the Daily Worker, which is a Communist Party Victory and the New York Daily News and other pro-American newspapers, and current is advertising at Afford University, which is a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University, and characterizes Luce and University, his followers as American Nazis.

Other organizations participating in the purge-and-smear campaign, which has been supported financially by Luce's publications, include the League of American Writers, the American Committee for a Union of Nations, and the Friends of Democracy, headed by the Rev. Leon Birnbaum, a renegade Methodist minister, and Freedom House, headed by Herbert Agar, which is the successor to Fight for Freedom, Inc., a pre-Pearl Harbor prowar outfit. Stout admits that he contributes to all these organizations.
ganization for "collective security," the present war would be lost, too, he argued.

Stout labeled himself a "pro-labor, pro-New Deal, pro-Roosevelt left liberal." He professed to be anti-Communist.

Reminded that the New Masses, official weekly organ of the Communist party, listed him as one of its owners and a member of its executive board in 1926, Stout said he "resigned" when he learned that there were Communists on the board.

The files of the magazine show, however, that he was listed three years later in 1929, as a contributing editor.

Stout acknowledged that he joined the American League Against War and Fascism in 1934 or 1935. This was one of the Communist front organizations named by Attorney General Biddle in his ruling against Bridges. Stout said he could not recall whether he ever joined the League of American Writers, but the records of the Dies committee show that he did.

Fadiman Speaker

Appearing with Stout as one of the speakers at the Fulton Theater meeting was Clifton Fadiman, the radio quiz program conductor, who is a member of the WWB. In the September 1932 issue of the New Masses, Fadiman's name appeared over an article in a symposium headed, "How I Came to Communism."

Present at the Fulton Theater meeting were members of the League of American Writers, the American Newspaper Guild, P. E. N., the Pen and Brush Club, and other unaffiliated writers. Stout told the meeting that the WWB functions as a two-way clearing house where writers volunteer their services for war work and Government agencies request the services of writers for specific tasks, such as the preparation of speeches and radio programs.

The WWB has an office in the skyscraper Chanin Building, where New York branches of Government agencies are centered. The OCD furnishes the office space a paid secretary, two stenographers and a file clerk.

In the interview Stout denied that the WWB has any official status. Yet a questionnaire and an appeal for contributions signed by him on April 16 was distributed to writers under the frank of: "Executive Office of the President.

"Office for Emergency Management."

"Writers' War Committee."

The appeal to writers, requesting their voluntary participation, stated that "much of the material thus produced will be published in the usual commercial mediums and will be paid for by them. In some cases you will be asked to donate material as a contribution to the common cause."

Senator Harry F. Byrd (D.), of Virginia, has asked the Post Office Department for a report on this apparent violation of the postal laws.

Members of Board

Stout said the WWB, originally called the Writers War Committee, was formed last December to carry out a request by the Treasury Department for assistance in its War Bond selling program. Besides Stout and Fadiman, members of the board are George

Britt, Sidney Buchman, Pearl S. Buck, Henry Fisk Carlton, Russell Crouse, Elmer Davis, Rita Hallie Kleeman, Margaret Leech, John P. Marquand, William L. Shirer and Luis Silicox. Members of the advisory council are:

LOUIS ADAMIC
FRANKLIN P. ADAMS
MARGARET CULKIN BANNING
STEPHEN VINCENT BENET
ROARK BRADFORD
LOUIS BROMFIELD
WILLIAM DAWES BROOKS
KATHARINE BRUSH
HENRY SEIDEL CANBY
CARL CARMER
MARY ELLEN CHASE
MARC CONNELLY
NORMAN CORWIN
WALTER D. EDMONDS
EDNA FERBER
DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ROSE FRANKEN
PAUL GALLICO
LEWIS GANNETT
JOHN GUNTER
LANGSTON HUGHES
MARQUIS JAMES
OWEN JOHNSON
JOHN KIERAN
HOWARD LINDSAY
EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY
ROBERT NATHAN
CLIFFORD ODETS
EUGENE O'NEILL
WILLIAM LYNON PHELPS
FLETCHER PRATT
MARGIE KINNAN RAWLINGS
QUENTIN REYNOLDS
ELMER RICE
MARY ROBERTS RINEHART
KENNETH ROBERTS
FRANK SULLIVAN
DOROTHY THOMPSON
CARL VAN DOREN
HENDRICK WILLIAM VAN LOON
THORNTON WILDER