

Coaching Lies Against Bridges Laid to F. B. I.

By Julius Rosenthal

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

SAN FRANCISCO, June 7.—With the elaborate story by Maurice Cannalunga, prosecution rebuttal witness in the deportation hearing here against CIO leader Harry Bridges, already shot full of holes by systematic defense cross-examination, the government today prepared for redirect examination of the witness Monday morning.

Cannalunga, a ship's electrician and a member of the Marine Firemen's Union, testified for the prosecution several weeks ago, leaving the stand April 17. At that time his testimony was so evasive and given so obviously under fear of FBI intimidation, that Prosecutor Albert Del Guercio complained that he was a "hostile witness," and Judge Charles Brown Sears, the trial examiner, described him as a "reluctant witness."

On May 3 and 4, in Portland, Ore., Cannalunga told Defense Attorney Richard Gladstein and others that he had been forced by the FBI to make false statements and to give false testimony, under threat of prosecution and possible 20 years' imprisonment on a Mann Act charge, according to evidence later introduced by the defense. On the following day, May 5, he told Rosco Craycraft, Portland Longshoremen's Union official, that he was willing to return to San Francisco and testify for the defense.

LUNDBERG SUBPOENAED

Shortly after that he disappeared, and, although there was a defense subpoena out for him, he did not show up in the hearing room in the new Post Office Building here until last Wednesday afternoon, as a prosecution witness.

Another witness the government intends to add to its roster of "experts" is Harry Lundberg, red-baiting secretary of the Sailors Union of the Pacific. At the opening of Friday's session, Del Guercio asked Judge Sears to inquire whether Lundberg had responded to a subpoena. The Judge called

out Lundberg's name, and so did one of the Immigration Service Border Patrol guards in the corridor, but there was no response.

In addition to the maze of contradictions into which Cannalunga fell under cross-examination by Defense Attorney, other highlights of the hearing this week included conclusion, for the time being at least, of prosecution and defense examination of Harry Bridges.

Cannalunga's story, as told in answer to queries by Del Guercio, was that he had left the ship on which he was working, the West Cusseta, when it was docked at Portland, and went on a fishing trip in the Olympic Mountains, near Olympia, Wash., he returned to his Seattle home Wednesday, May 28, he said, and went downtown to file application to join the Navy.

Then he went back home—and John Medalla, an FBI agent, "drove by and knocked at the door" and informed him there was a subpoena out for him.

ESCORTED BY FBI

On Friday night, May 30, after he had been served with subpoena in the FBI office in Seattle, he left for San Francisco by train, escorted by a couple of FBI men. In San Francisco he was handed another subpoena.

Defense cross-examination of Cannalunga, conducted by Attorneys Richard Gladstein and Aubrey Grossman, has not only shattered the witness's story, but has also exposed FBI methods. Some of the details brought out include the following:

1. From the time of his arrival

back in San Francisco last Sunday until his appearance on the witness stand, he was constantly in company of FBI men — except when he went to bed.

2. Although Cannalunga now states he was so drunk on May 3 and 4 that he didn't know what he did or said, he admits that on those dates he was doing highly skilled electrical work, including repairing of broken winches, on the West Cusseta.

3. On the stand Friday, the witness stated that he left the ship on Wednesday, May 7, but under direct examination he had given the date as Tuesday, May 6.

4. Cannalunga, replying to cross examination questions Wednesday, testified that he had no knowledge of when the subpoena he received May 30 in Seattle (the defense subpoena) specified that he appear at the hearing, and that he had not discussed the matter with anyone. On Friday, however, he testified that in Seattle he had asked the official who gave him the first subpoena the meaning of the word "forthwith," which appeared on the subpoena.

MEMORY "HAZY"

Throughout his testimony, Cannalunga has been nervous, shifty, evasive, mumbling "I don't recall" and "I don't remember" in Van Der Lubbe fashion to practically all questions put to him by the defense regarding his May 3 and 4 repudiations of earlier testimony and FBI statements. He now denies ever having been implicated in possible Mann Act charges.

Prosecutor Del Guercio, whose brow-beating ill temper and open red-baiting has marked the hearing since its opening March 31, was more enraged than ever by Bridges' calm, quick answers. The tieup of the entire prosecution with the war moves of the Roosevelt administration was further revealed at one point, when Del Guercio, after questioning Bridges regarding a Pacific Coast Congress Against War and Fascism here in April 1935, asked the witness if he was against shipment of munitions to Britain now.

"As a representative of my union, or as an individual?" Asked Bridges.

Completely losing his temper, Del Guercio, his face flushed, shouted: "As a member of the Communist Party!"

Judge Sears remarked: "We're getting pretty far from the issue."

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