



seamen accused of mutiny for refusing to load ammunition at Mare Island after the Port Chicago explosion, was devoted today mainly to arguments by Lieutenant Commander Frank Coakley, judge advocate, for the inclusion in the record of testimony tending to show a conspiracy on the part of the 50 seamen and 207 others who had originally refused to load explosives.

Portions of the testimony purportedly linking the 207 other seamen had been stricken from the record at various times during the trial. Coakley, in a plea which Defense Attorney Lieutenant Gerald Veltman termed prejudicial to the merits of the case, asked that the facts concerning the original refusal to work be included in the record.

The trial, conducted in a completely unbiased fashion, was adjourned after an hour's hearing until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

## Court-Martial Of Sailors Stirs Indignation

As the court-martial of 50 Negro seamen accused of mutiny for refusing to load ammunition after the Port Chicago explosion went into its sixth day, indignation among Pacific Coast Negro leaders continued to manifest itself.

In San Diego, Mrs. J. E. Craft, president of the San Diego Women's Civic League as coordinator of the league's "Big Sisters to Servicemen" which has branches in all Negro churches and community organizations, added a personal touch.

Her next-door neighbor is the wife of one of the accused seamen who was at home for the birth of his son at the time of the Port Chicago disaster.

"My little neighbor's husband would have had his life snuffed out had he not been home to greet his new son," Mrs. Craft said today. "When he returned to Port Chicago and found every one of his buddies killed, he said that something just snapped within him.

"He is now one of those boys being tried on Yerba Buena Island (in San Francisco Bay.)

"I think that leniency for these boys is indicated. I am sure that their act was the result of a mental reaction from that tragic explosion. I also think that an understanding officer should be put in charge whom these boys believe is interested in all servicemen, regardless of race, creed or color. And then watch the pendulum swing from what now seems disloyalty to a group of loyal men upon whom America can depend."

Reverend John C. Wiley, pastor of the Mission Hills Congregation Church, San Diego, declared: "I go on record in protest against the Jim Crow system wherever it exists, whether in the army, the navy, the marine corps or in any other walk of life. If the accusation under which these Negro boys are being tried came about through operation of Jim Crow, certainly these are extenuating circumstances which should call for clemency on their behalf."

### DISCRIMINATION HIT

Other statements included: Father Morgan Tab, pastor of St. Cyprian's Mission, San Francisco, declared:

"Refusing to obey orders is not to be condoned in those who are serving their country in the armed forces.

"Yet, we cannot help but feel that the discriminatory policy of the American armed forces is not in keeping with the tradition that the many Negroes who have served their country have seen."

"How can our armed forces, without hypocrisy, remove the discriminatory laws of those sections of the world, that they are 'liberating,' when they are condoning the same thing within their own organizations."

### Kenny Nixes State



RUSHING ARMS and supplies across the Meuse River near Liege, an armored half-track crosses one of the pontoon bridges hastily built by U. S. Army engineers, while a crowd of Belgians look on.

(U. S. Signal Corps Photo.)

## Registration Steps Up

### San Diego Unions Report Boom Response

(People's World San Diego Bureau) SAN DIEGO, Sept. 19.—Determined that every union man and woman in San Diego County shall go to the polls to cast his vote for President Roosevelt and other Administration candidates, organized labor is intensifying its get-out-the-vote campaign in the few weeks that remain between now and November 7.

Typical are announced plans of the AFL central labor council and its affiliates, following last week's unanimous vote for all-out support of President Roosevelt, vice presidential Candidate Harry S. Truman, Senator Sheridan E. Downey, and local candidates, Congressman Ed V. Izac and Robert F. Driver, 80th district candidate for the state assembly.

Check will be made of every AFL member, using the master registration list at the county registrar's office and union membership records. Volunteers in each local will make sure that every member has registered while other volunteers will also concentrate on precinct work in their neighborhoods.

Painters Local 333 have designated all members of the Better Legislation Committee as registrars and the District Council of Carpenters have had all their business agents deputized to conduct a registration drive right on the job. All other union officers have registrars available to serve not only union members but the public.

### SIGNERS PILE UP

Building Service Local 102 reports that more than 75 votes have registered in the union office to date. Claude Laxson, business agent, reported that he had registered 20 other people who had stopped him on the street.

Mrs. Walter Barnes, auxiliary member, registered around 75 people in four hours one day last week. Mrs. Charlotte Phillips who operates a registration booth at the Safeway Store in La Jolla

### Oakland C of C Pushes Signup; Results Good

(People's World East Bay Bureau) OAKLAND, Sept. 19.—A non-partisan campaign for registration of voters rolled ahead today, backed by the Oakland Junior Chamber of Commerce. The campaign will not deal with issues but with getting the largest possible number of voters to the polls on November 7.

The chamber is now completing plans for newspaper and radio publicity on the drive. County Clerk G. E. Wade said this week that "vote apathy" was apparent even though registrations are heavier than in the primary campaign.

### 41,000 Oregon GIs Seek Ballots

SALEM, Ore., Sept. 19 (UP).—More than 41,000 applications for servicemen's absentee ballots have been received by the elections division of the secretary of state's office here, and election officials today predicted that more than 50,000 will be received.

About a third of the applications are from overseas. Ballots will be mailed out starting the 4th day before election.

### Vicky Says:



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the American Legion voted today in cation Authority and transferring ed States from civilian agencies to

nded by the committee on Ameri- the franking privilege. The committee's report, as ap- proved by the convention, recom-

# Red Army Captures Tallinn

By VERN SMITH  
(People's World Foreign Editor)

The Red Army captured Tallinn, the Americans announced their air attack on Luzon, the Allies took Rimini, all yesterday.

This means that on all fronts now the same kind of turning point has been reached that was achieved on the Western front a day before when the Allies consolidated their grip on the crossings of the main Rhine channels.

The Allies have now won the battles for position, the struggle for the approaches, to the final decisive conflicts on all those fronts.

That does not mean the immediate end of the war because the final conflicts can be hot and long, and even after they are won, there can be a considerable period of pursuit and mopping up.

## Pacific

The Philippines are a key to the whole Japanese Empire and on them the fate of the Japanese war machine depends. It is 450 miles from Luzon to the Asiatic mainland. That means American air and naval bases in Luzon can sever all the East Indies, all south-east Asia, from the Japanese war factories in the homeland—a mortal blow in terms of tin, oil, rubber, alone.

The significant thing about the first sizeable American attack on the Philippines last Thursday was what Admiral Nimitz calls its "superlative success." It proved the Japanese have no adequate naval or air power with which to meet a full scale invasion of the Philippines.

The disproportion of losses (See Page 2 for details) shows further deterioration of quality in Japanese planes and ships since the little battles of the "island-hopping" approach of the last two years.

## Eastern Front

The amazingly rapid capture of all northern Estonia, with destruction of tens of thousands of Germans, means the cleanup in the Baltics by the Red Army is near. The German DNB talk about "evacuating" Estonia is nonsense, most of the Germans driven back on Tallinn could escape only by sea, and the Red fleet, slipping along the now harmless Finnish coast, has come out of the Gulf of Finland and is blockading the Baltic coast as far south as the Gulf of Riga. The Germans may attack it, and the first big naval battle be fought.

On a broad front the Red Army sweeps on Hungary, and yesterday was about 10 miles from the border, pressing the rapid cleanup of the Balkans.

## Western Front

On the whole the Allies have won their battle for flanking positions at the end of the west wall and for the main Rhine crossings. Now the Allies will try to broaden their salient

# DEFENSE READY IN NAVY TRIAL

No Indication Attorney Will Enter Evidence of Jim Crow

YERBA BUENA ISLAND, Sept. 22.—The navy court martial of 50 Negro enlisted men charged with refusal to load ammunition after the Port Chicago disaster may hear each of the accused men tell his own story next week.

That was a possibility as defense attorney Lieutenant Gerald Veltmann prepared his case for presentation when the prosecution rests, either this eighth day of the trial or tomorrow.

In today's proceedings, the Navy prosecutor, Judge Advocate Lieutenant Commander Frank Coakley continued his efforts to establish a conspiracy to mutiny. So far, Veltmann's skillful cross-examination of prosecution witnesses has elicited information negating the existence of a conspiracy.

So far, also, Coakley, who was Governor Earl Warren's understudy when Warren was district attorney of Alameda County and served as deputy chief prosecutor in Warren's office, has not alluded to the special circumstances influencing the conduct of the Port Chicago survivors, nor indicated that their position differs from that of ordinary mutineers. It is not known whether the defense attorney intends to enter such evidence.

Meanwhile, leaders continued to point out the extenuating circumstances of the accused sailors' conduct as well as the Jim Crow aspects of the case.

## CITES NEGROES' LOYALTY

Floyd Covington, executive secretary of the Los Angeles Urban League and housing commissioner declared:

"This is not a case of mutiny in the usual sense of the word. I strongly recommend leniency, especially when you consider that at no time in United States history has there been any direct disloyalty by Negro armed forces, even under the toughest circumstances.

"This action was due to lowered morale stemming from the double discriminatory conditions practised in some phases of the navy. It highlights more than ever the question regarding the actual symbol of democracy for which men are giving their lives everywhere."

## SIMPLE JUSTICE

Ben Margolis, prominent attorney and member of a Los Angeles labor law firm, said:

"In all cases, the surrounding circumstances should be given consideration in imposing punishment for those convicted of any offense.

"That is simple justice. In this case, the application of such a rule of simple justice can result only in the granting of extreme leniency. Such an application is important not only to the men involved and Negroes generally; it is essential to all Americans who desire a speedy victory and a prosperous and peaceful postwar world.

"The world must know that the people of America believe in equal justice for all regardless of race, color or creed."

## DISCRIMINATION KNOWN

# Road to Prosperity

## Unity of Labor, Business Vital, Says CofC Head

OAKLAND, Sept. 22.—The job of meeting the postwar situation in such a way as to provide security for American business and labor "can be done only by all three (government, business and labor) working in a kind of cooperation they have never yet known in times of peace." Harrison S. Robinson, president of the California State Chamber of Commerce, declared at a Lions Club luncheon here.

The three must be "drawn together by the visible peril which is capable of destroying a considerable part of each of them as they now exist," he said.

Robinson declared that the "mere planning of projects and earmarking of funds are not enough to solve the problems" of peace, and urged that "new and vigorous" measures be taken to prevent "risking a material part of the things that Americans hold dear."

"Businessmen and unions will impair, may even destroy, the only system under which either can flourish if they persist in making of their relations one long prize-fight," he said. "At the end of each round one of them takes the count or at the sound of the bell staggers bleeding and groggy to the corner."

## 4 POINT PROGRAM

Business, labor and government must cooperate with each other to the mutual benefit of each, he added.

The four-point program for economic reconstruction which Robinson proposed at the meeting called for full employment for the employable; widespread distribution on a financially sound basis of the fruits of production; an approximate balance between production and consumption and adequate public care for those who cannot take care of themselves.

# Barge Firms Sign Pact

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 22.—Two more barge companies, the Berkeley Transportation Company

# L.A. Times Plugs For Light Vote

## GOP Advised Not to Stress Registration

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 22.—The Los Angeles Times, Republican organ in the week declared editor that "it might be a smart practical politics for the Republicans not to stress the importance of those not already registered in the November election doing because of Gallup poll results that those now registering are largely Democrats.

Quoting the Gallup poll, Times declared: "his polls that the now-registered electors are 51 per cent for Dewey against

## Dewey Glared

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 22.—Governor Thomas Dewey blinked at the South California sun today as he arrived for the climax to presidential campaign tour the West Coast.

Crowds along the streets were sparse, particularly in front of the City Hall, where spectators were only one or two deep. A spectator shouted, "what are you going to do about breadlines are you going to have?" and received only glare from the New York governor.

Along Spring street—the financial center of Los Angeles—Dewey was showered liberally with ticker tape and torn telephone books. As he turned into the cheap retail district of upper Broadway, he had a few books sprinkled in with the cheers. There were shouts of "we don't want another Hoover" and "get along, small potatoes."

49 percent for Roosevelt, whereas expressed popular preference between the candidates, without regard to registration, approximately reverses these figures."

The Times added that "putting it still another way, Mr. Roosevelt's chance are considerably more dependent on a fuller registration than are those of Governor Dewey."

The existence of a Roosevelt majority despite a Dewey majority among those registered. The Times figures, is caused by some 15,000,000 job shifts by workers who have moved and the 11,500,000 in the armed services.

Nevertheless, The Times urges all eligible voters to register, saying "let's have no minority verdict."

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On the whole the Allies have won their battle for flanking positions at the end of the west wall and for the main Rhine crossings. Now the Allies will try to broaden their salient, spread it to the Zuider Zee and then annihilate Germans cut off in western Holland, and also bend it into the Ruhr and Westphalia.

They will bring up ever larger forces to back their mobile vanguards now hammering at the West Wall all the way south to Belfort. Naturally the Germans will mobilize all they have to try to cut off the Netherlands salient, and to drive back the advance units, mostly tanks and self-propelled guns, of the American First and Third Armies, to the south.

That sort of fighting can go on for several days, but the percentage is with the Allies. Their reinforcements will flow faster with every one of the Channel ports they put into operation.

### FR Rally in L. A. Sunday

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 22.—Fehlhaber Grove, located at 8503 Tujunga Canyon boulevard, Tujunga, will be the scene of a Roosevelt rally under the auspices of the Glendale Democratic Club this Sunday from noon until 4 p. m.

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### DISCRIMINATION KNOWN

Walter L. McDonald, secretary of the NAACP San Diego branch stated:

"The asking of one simple question of how the Negro people are looking at this court martial.

"That question is: Is there one or more Negro Navy officers sitting on the panel of judges?"

"Everybody knows there is not because everybody knows that Negroes are discriminated against in the navy, which despite its prejudices, has been forced repeatedly to recognize the heroism of its Negro enlisted men.

"Naturally then, every Negro will question the possibility of obtaining justice in one isolated case where it is denied as a matter of general practice.

"Every effort should be made to impress the navy with the fact that a heavy handed sentence in this case will not make any contribution to discipline but will in fact, only arouse resentment among Negro people whether in or out of the armed forces and therefore will be very damaging to national unity of the white and Negro people in behalf of the war effort."

### Cotton Picking

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SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 22.—Two more barge companies, the Berkeley Transportation Company and the Rio Vista Lighterage Company, have signed the barge industry contract of the CIO International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, pledging amicable relations with the union in exchange for the union's no-strike postwar vow.

## HEARST'S SMEAR KICKS B Rail Body Challenge

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 22.—The editors and publishers of Hearst's San Francisco Examiner will be asked to explain on October 5, if they can, the appearance of a "false and grossly inaccurate" story in the August 12 edition of The Examiner, which is held to be in "contempt" of the State Railroad Commission.

The story in question "reported" the hearings of last August 10 and 11 by the commission in its investigation into the effect upon the rates and operating expenses of public utilities of federal war taxes on income accrued and paid by the utility.

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Nevertheless, The Times urged all eligible voters to register, saying "let's have no minority verdict."

## New 'Dead' Stars

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Sept. 22 (UP).—Discovery of two more "white dwarf" stars, located in the constellation Antlia, was announced here by Dr. Willem J. Luyten, University of Minnesota astronomer credited with locating nearly half the 65 "white dwarfs" known to science.

dence... and to impede, embarrass and obstruct the said Railroad Commission in the discharge of its duties."

The defendants, Clarence R. Lindner, publisher; William C. Wren, editor and managing editor, and E. W. McQuade, city editor, will be called upon to explain why Commissioner Richard Sachse was deliberately misquoted when it was reported he said: "I demand that Powley (president of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company) be brought here and put on the stand."

### MORE TWISTS

In reality, the record shows that and

pw 10/18/44 p3

# Prejudice at the Navy Trial Coakley, Using Oldest Trick, Puts Glare on 'North' Negro

BY MARY LINDSAY

Last week Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel for the NAACP, charged Lieutenant Commander James F. Coakley, judge-advocate for the mass mutiny trial taking place at Yerba Buena Island, with the injection of race prejudice into the court-martial.

Coakley, who was Governor Earl Warren's chief assistant when Warren was district attorney for Alameda County, immediately protested his innocence to high heaven. Prejudice!—who? Me? For heaven's sake, no! You must be thinking of someone else!

Marshall repeated his charge before a meeting of the San Francisco branch of the NAACP Sunday and Coakley will undoubtedly deny it again.

I'd like to get my say in in the meantime.

This court-martial has been going on for four and a half weeks. And for four and a half weeks I've been watching Coakley and listening to Coakley and every day I've gotten a little sicker and a little sicker.

Because Coakley is a Northern

There are several Southern officers involved in the trial. The chief defense attorney is a Texan. At least one of the court-martial board members is a Southerner.

But it remained for Coakley—a Northerner—a Californian—a Bay area man—to drag race prejudice into the courtroom in an effort to sway a decision which can mean life or death to 50 scared confused Negro kids.

How has he done it? Very simply. He's used one of the oldest tricks in the filthy bag which has been filled up through the years by race baiters.

It goes like this. The defense puts one of the accused on the stand—the first witness for the defense. His name is Longmire. He speaks with a decided Southern accent.

Coakley doesn't ask him where he comes from.

Coakley doesn't have to, because Coakley knows.

Coakley has in front of him 50 slender tan-covered books which

contain the complete record of each of the 50 accused—including where they were born, raised, went to school, worked, etc.

The next witness, too, speaks with a Southern accent. Coakley doesn't ask him where he is from.

The same thing happens with the next witness. Southern accent, no query as to his home.

Then the fourth witness!

His name is Joe Small. He is intelligent—an acting petty-officer. His answers are clear and coherent. He's a good witness—and he's the man Coakley is desperately trying to prove is a "ringleader" of the "conspiracy" to mutiny.

So, bang! Comes the question! "Where are you from, Small?"

"New Jersey, sir."

"What did you do before you came into the navy?"

"I was a truck driver, sir."

Ah, a teamster. Coakley gloats—both eyes pinned to the Southern officer on the board—you can see the thought waves going out—a smart Northern N—, probably a union member, too.

The next eight witnesses have Southern accents, so the courtroom doesn't get to hear what town they come from.

However, the next defendant brings it out again.

Coakley looks down at the man's record, looks up, one eye on the Southern officer. "Where are you from, Grimes?"

"Detroit, sir."

"How much education did you have?"

"High school, sir."

"What did you do before you came into the navy?"

"I worked in a defense plant, sir."

And so it goes, day after day—where are you from? New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, New York, Chicago, Detroit. How much education did you have?—high school graduate—three years of high school—two years of high school—never does he question the defendants who have obviously had not more than a couple of years of grade school.

### SOMETHING ADDED

Coakley was particularly clever with a youngster named Freddie Meeks. The routine was changed a little.

"Where are you from, Meeks?"

"Memphis, Tennessee, sir."

A slight frown from Coakley, then, "Before you came into the navy, weren't you in Los Angeles?"

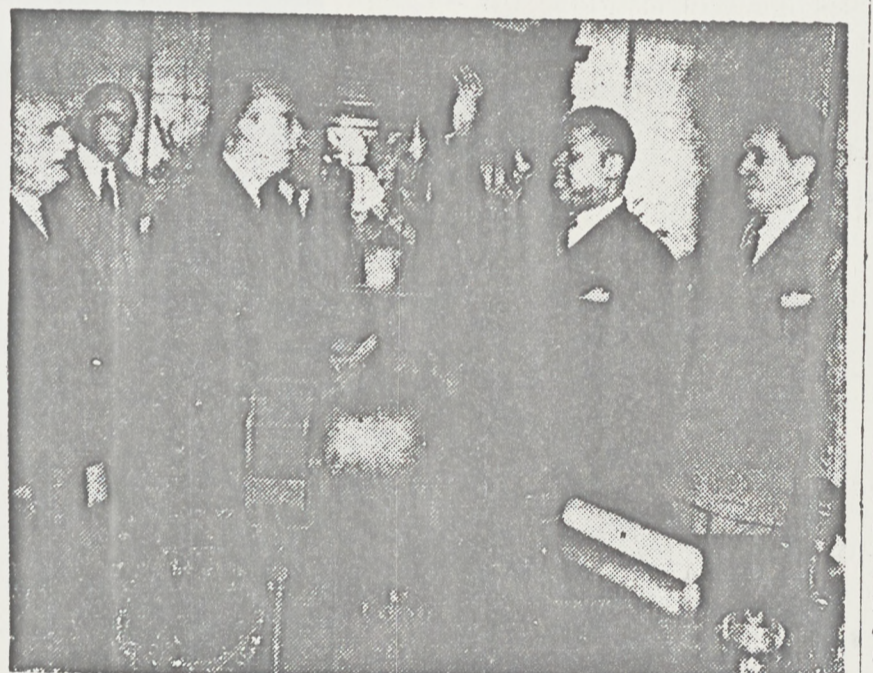
"Yes, sir."

"How long?"—"About two years, sir."

"What did you do?" "I was a welder, sir."

"Didn't you go to Jefferson High School there?" "Yes, sir."

By the time 40 of the 50 accused had been on the stand, Coakley had really warmed up to his little song and dance, and had added a new verse which was quite interesting. It went like this.

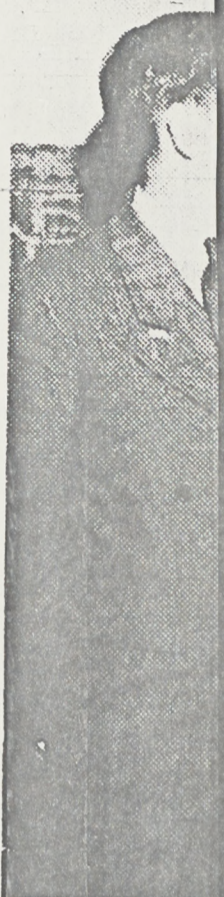


ASSOCIATE JUSTICE Hugo L. Black of the United States Supreme Court administers the oath of office of Recorder of Deeds to Dr. Marshall L. Shepard of Philadelphia in the Senate Caucus Room in Washington. Reverend Shepard, appointed by President Roosevelt to the vacancy created by Dr. Thompkins' death, took the oath surrounded by his family, members of Congress, high ranking government officials and friends. Left to right: Senator Joseph F. Guffey, Justice Hugo L. Black, Reverend Marshall L. Shepard, Former Representative James P. McGranery, who read the official citation nominating Dr. Shepard for the post. Representative Herman P. Eberharter (of Pittsburgh) shown in background.

## Frank Lloyd Wright Greatest 'Modern' Architect Pessimistic on Postwar Housing

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 17.—"America is the only great nation on record which has proceeded from barbarism to degeneracy without ever having achieved civilization," Frank Lloyd Wright quoted a visiting Frenchman in an interview yesterday.

Wright has been termed the father of modern architecture but would probably recall to his credit



SOUTHLAND man Preston H. Hospital and C meeting for CIO

## Spec NORMA THEY

By JACK C

NEW YORK, O The bobbysockers friend in Robert probably knows m species than anyone in a way, is respon And like them, h Sinatra fan.

"They're just no kids from ordinary are enthusiastic ab thing and let off st he explained. "You ball game or prize our heads off at a a knockout, don't thing."

Weitman, tall, hus 39, is the general d Paramount motion p in Times Square, h bands and crooner



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pw 10/19/44 p 4

Friday, October 19, 1944

# Change in Law

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ation of the Industrial  
ime was placed on the  
week by CIO leaders  
p-committee hearings.  
Philip Connelly and  
percent of their back  
the union's organizing  
es at the plant also  
new sick leave and va-  
lowances.

## Pay

D Utility Workers Or-  
Committee has won a  
War Labor Board order  
holiday pay for Pacific  
Company night  
ers with that of regu-  
employees. The order is  
detailed covers North  
ers of the company.

workers in six Bay  
ies received WLB ap-  
pation clauses provid-  
week with pay after  
loss than 1400 hours  
mill establishments

## e Jibes About v Disease

TON, Oct. 18 (UP).  
netal Francis Biddle  
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apparently "suffered an-  
k of the Republican oc-  
disease — convenient  
pov" in his St. Louis  
t might in which he at-  
Roosevelt administra-  
with the Pendergast po-  
sine.

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1937 a fearless Demo-  
crator for a Democratic  
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Maurice M. Milligan,  
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sent him to prison.

## O'Brien, Jinx lia for GIs

LIII, Oct. 18 (UP). —  
stars Pat O'Brien and  
nberg arrived in New  
t to start an enter-  
n of U. S. Army forces  
a-Burma-India theater  
& refused all offers to  
up in the doughboys'  
ely Ann Sheridan.  
ined comment on a  
d editorial printed in  
wspaper CBI Roundup  
at Miss Sheridan, Joe  
oel McCrea and a num-  
er Hollywood notables  
entertaining in Bur-  
they found the going

here to do a job and  
fill our booking," a  
for O'Brien said.



IN HIS first encounter with the Luftwaffe, Lieutenant John W. Wainwright of Marshall, Texas, accounted for six enemy planes.

## Farm Chiefs, On Radio, Oppose '12'

Grace McDonald and Anthony G. Mattos will deliver radio talks against Proposition No. 12, the "right-to-work" amendment, on Thursday and Friday evenings, October 19 and 20.

Grace McDonald is a member of the State Board of Agriculture and editor of The California Farm Reporter. Mattos is chairman of the Western Cooperative Dairymen's Union, and vice chairman of the Citizens Committee Against Proposition No. 12.

Following is the list of scheduled times and stations:

- October 19—KWG, Stockton, 9:30 p. m.
- October 20—KERN, Bakersfield, 9:45 p. m.; KXO, El Centro, 9:45 p. m.; KMLJ, Fresno, 10:15 p. m.; KMPC, Los Angeles, 6:45 p. m.; KDON, Monterey, 9:45 p. m.; KPRO, Riverside, 9:45 p. m.; KFBK, Sacramento, 6:00 p. m.; KFSB, San Diego, 10:30 p. m.

# Explosion Probe Asked by Marshall

## Full Text of NAACP Lawyer's Findings After Special Survey

YERBA BUENA, Oct. 18.—An immediate probe by the Navy Department of the circumstances of the Port Chicago explosion and the mutiny trial at Yerba Buena of 50 Negro seamen was demanded today by Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored

People (NAACP), who arrived here by plane over a week ago on a priority from the Secretary of the Navy to observe the court martial proceedings.

Marshall returned to Washington this morning. His statement in full follows:

After a week and a half of personal investigation of the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the present mutiny court martial on Yerba Buena Island, I am convinced that a complete and immediate probe of the situation by the Navy Department is indicated.

No part of this statement is in any way a reflection upon the court-martial board itself in the handling of the present proceedings. I also wish to make clear that it is my opinion that defense counsel in the case is doing an excellent job within the limitations imposed by the fact that they are navy officers.

My investigation, made for the NAACP, was of necessity, limited in scope, but I have uncovered sufficient evidence, I believe, to warrant a governmental inquiry into the following three aspects of the affair:

1.—The policy of the 12th Naval District which, with only a few minor exceptions, restricts the use of Negro seamen, regardless of their training and qualifications, to shore duty in the capacity of laborers—and in segregated outfits.

2.—The inefficient and unsafe manner in which ammunition was handled at Port Chicago prior to the explosion, and the fact that Negroes working on it are given absolutely no kind of instruction or training in the proper handling of it.

3.—The inconsistent, haphazard and utterly unfair manner in which the 50 accused seamen now on trial for their lives were singled out from over 400 men whose actions with regard to the loading of ammunition after the Port Chicago explosion, were identical in almost every respect to those of the 50 accused.

### ASKS INVESTIGATION

A Navy Department investigation would clear up a lot of questions which are in my mind about this whole situation.

For instance, I want to know why, at the time of the explosion at Port Chicago, every man loading ammunition there was a Negro.

I want to know why the navy disregarded official warnings by San Francisco waterfront unions—that an explosion was inevitable if they persisted in using untrained seamen in the loading of ammunition.

I want to know why the navy disregarded an offer by these same

munition, when the Longshoremen's Union has told me that it is absolutely impossible for a hatch-tender working with one hand to meet safely every situation which may arise in the loading of ammunition.

I want to know why the commissioned officers at Port Chicago were allowed to race their men. I want to know why bets ranging from \$5 up were made between division officers as to whose crew would load more ammunition.

### LEFT IN RUINS

I would like to know why, after a disaster which snuffed out the lives of over 300 of their friends, survivors were left in the ruins of Port Chicago, given no leaves—not even survivors' leave—and in fact, told that they would not be given any leave until after they had gone back to loading ammunition.

I would like to know if the navy's neuro-psychiatric staff was consulted as to the mental state of the men who went through that explosion. And if it was, I want to know if it really believed that men suffering from shock such as these men were suffering from could be brought back to normalcy simply by bringing in swing bands to play jive to them in buildings which were still roofless and twisted from the explosion and while they were still finding mangled pieces of their friends' bodies strewn around the base.

I want to know if the 12th Naval District was really surprised when, less than two weeks after the explosion, men from the Port Chicago First Division refused to unload ammunition from box cars onto a barge.

I want to know why this refusal by men of the first division and subsequent refusals by other men have never been mentioned at the court martial at Yerba Buena.

I want to know why over 100 men, most of whom, had refused to load ammunition, were suddenly shipped overseas only a few days after the incident at Vallejo on the 9th of August; on which this present court martial is based. Ten of these men were survivors of the third and sixth divisions, the rest of whose members were blown to bits on July 17.

I want to know why another 207 men, who were originally involved with the 50 accused, were given summary court martials and light sentences.

I want to know why there are a number of men at Vallejo and Port Chicago walking around at liberty, in spite of the fact that they refused and have continued



MAJOR Richard Bong, the lar, Wis., flyer, has bagged more Japanese planes over neo to boost his total planes. Bong, recently re from a two-month leave U. S., is now an aerial instructor.

## OPA Acts On 338 Gas Violators

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 18.—September suspensions of gas rations for speeding and for use of rations in 16 counties in Northern California, announced by the District Office of Price Administration, showed a sharp drop from figures for August.

Three hundred and eighty motorists received suspension gas coupons, compared to 462 in August total of 462. Law enforcement officials, however, stepped their drive on speeders, with warnings on ration suspensions by War Price and Ration Boards to 268 drivers, against 462 in August. These warnings are in addition to fines which may be levied by local courts.

Speeding caused 312 suspensions, a drop of 55 from the previous month. Misuse of rations caused 76 suspensions, 19 under the August figure.

A variety of violations caused the suspension in September of the 76 drivers who were judged guilty by their local War and Rationing Boards of misuse of gasoline rations. "Failure to surrender sufficient coupons for termination of essential equipment" still leads the list.

Duration suspensions were issued to flagrant violators—such as those obtaining gasoline under assumed name and misusing ration driving vehicles for which they had been suspended, or illegally possessing coupons. Several suspensions were issued to those who got gasoline to return home to

sions of the company.

millworkers in six Bay  
anties received WLB ap-  
of vacation clauses provid-  
one week with pay after  
not less than 1400 hours.  
200 mill establishments  
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## He Jibes About ey Disease

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General Francis Biddle  
that Governor Thomas  
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nd sent him to prison.

## O'Brien, Jinx dia for GIs

ELIH, Oct. 18 (UP). —  
d stars Pat O'Brien and  
enberg arrived in New  
night to start an enter-  
tour of U. S. Army forces  
ina-Burma-India theater.  
ply refused all offers to  
d up in the doughboys'  
lovely Ann Sheridan.  
edined comment on a  
sial editorial printed in  
newspaper CBI Roundup,  
that Miss Sheridan, Joe  
Joel McCrea and a num-  
ber Hollywood notables  
their entertaining in Bur-  
se they found the going  
out here to do a job and  
fulfill our booking," a  
n for O'Brien said.

## os Open 'First rs' Drive

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 18.—The  
mocrats of San Francisco  
ed a "first voters" cam-  
ay with the opening of  
ers for Roosevelt-Tru-  
ey and Havener at 935  
feet.  
Stern, president of the  
n organization, will be  
director, assisted by Carl  
as campaign manager.  
Mattox will coordinate  
activities with the sen-

SAN FRANCISCO



IN HIS first encounter with the  
Luftwaffe, Lieutenant John W.  
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accounted for six enemy planes.

## Farm Chiefs, On Radio, Oppose '12'

Grace McDonald and Anthony  
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Grace McDonald is a member of  
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### Mother Is Steeplejack

TIFFIN (UP)—Tiffin's first  
steeplejack (or jill), Mrs. Glenn  
Little, has taken up tower paint-  
ing to escape the drudgery of  
housework. The 23-year-old moth-  
er of three children assisted with  
the painting of the Monroe School  
tower here.

for party organization, and Miss  
Dorothy King will direct organiza-  
tion of young women's activities.

SAN FRANCISCO

## ROBERT MINOR

National Vice-President  
Communist Political Assn.

## AMERICA'S FUTURE"

postwar prosperity? Jobs for all or  
is? International cooperation for  
try and a new world war? Why are

No part of this statement is in  
any way a reflection upon the  
court-martial board itself in the  
handling of the present proceed-  
ings. I also wish to make clear  
that it is my opinion that defense  
counsel in the case is doing an  
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minor exceptions, restricts the use  
of Negro seamen, regardless of  
their training and qualifications,  
to shore duty in the capacity of  
laborers—and in segregated out-  
fits.

2.—The inefficient and unsafe  
manner in which ammunition was  
handled at Port Chicago prior to  
the explosion, and the fact that  
Negroes working on it are given  
absolutely no kind of instruction  
or training in the proper handling  
of it.

3.—The inconsistent, haphazard  
and utterly unfair manner in  
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on trial for their lives were sin-  
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For instance, I want to know  
why, at the time of the explosion  
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ing ammunition there was a Ne-  
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I want to know why the navy  
disregarded official warnings by  
San Francisco waterfront unions—  
before the Port Chicago disaster  
—that an explosion was inevitable  
if they persisted in using un-  
trained seamen in the loading of  
ammunition.

I want to know why the navy  
disregarded an offer by these same  
unions to send experienced men  
to train navy personnel in the  
safe handling of explosives.

I want to know why men with  
as little as two-months experience,  
all of it on ammunition, were al-  
lowed to work as winch-drivers  
at Port Chicago when the Long-  
shoremen's Union, whose business  
it is to know about loading, will  
not allow a winch driver to work  
on ammunition unless he has had  
several years experience on a  
winch.

I want to know why 18-year-old  
Martin Bordenave, one of the ac-  
cused, was working as a hatch-  
tender when he had only one  
week's experience loading am-  
munition. According to Longshore  
union officials, no stevedoring  
contractor who has any regard at  
all for the safety of his men  
or his operations will allow an  
inexperienced hatch-tender to  
work on ammunition.

I want to know why a sup-  
posedly responsible naval offi-  
cial, the judge-advocate in the  
present court-martial, has, on at  
least three occasions during the  
trial, openly asserted that a hatch-  
tender with a broken wrist in a  
cast could work safely on am-

### LEFT IN RUINS

I would like to know why, after  
a disaster which snuffed out the  
lives of over 300 of their friends,  
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in buildings which were still roof-  
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I want to know if the 12th  
Naval District was really sur-  
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the Port Chicago First Division  
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I want to know why this refusal  
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days after the incident at Val-  
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which this present court martial  
is based. Ten of these men were  
survivors of the third and sixth  
divisions, the rest of whose mem-  
bers were blown to bits on July  
17.

I want to know why another  
207 men, who were originally in-  
volved with the 50 accused, were  
given summary court martials and  
light sentences.

I want to know why there are  
a number of men at Vallejo and  
Port Chicago walking around at  
liberty, in spite of the fact that  
they refused and have continued  
to refuse to load ammunition.

Some 400 men of the five or  
six loading divisions which sur-  
vived the July 17 explosion re-  
acted in almost exactly the same  
manner to the idea of going back  
to loading ammunition.

Some of them were given sum-  
mary court martials and light  
sentences. Some were shipped  
overseas. Some were simply  
turned loose and given other work  
assignments.

I want to know just what kind  
of reasoning was used by the  
12th Naval District in selecting  
an even 50 men out of the 400  
and deciding that they and they  
alone should be tried for their  
lives.

### Banker Is Brakeman

CHICAGO (UP)—Russell L.  
Hoak has two jobs. From Mon-  
days through Fridays he is vice  
president of the First National  
Bank of Elkhart, Ind. Over the  
week ends he works as brakeman  
on the New York Central freight  
run from Elkhart to Chicago.  
Hoak took the latter job after  
the railroad had appealed for  
part-time workmen.

MAJOR Richard Bong,  
lar, Wis., flyer, has bag-  
more Japanese planes o-  
neo to boost his total  
planes. Bong, recently  
from a two-month leave  
U. S., is now an aerial  
instructor.

## OPA Acts On 338 G Violators

SAN FRANCISCO, Oc-  
September suspensions of  
rations for speeding and  
use of rations in 16 cou-  
Northern California, anno-  
the District Office of Price  
istration, showed a sharp  
from figures for August.

Three hundred and eight  
motorists received suspen-  
gas coupons, compared to  
gust total of 462. Law  
ment officials, however, sta-  
their drive on speeders, wi-  
ings on ration suspension  
by War Price and R  
Boards to 268 drivers, again  
August. These warnings ad-  
dition to fines which may  
been levied by local courts.

Speeding caused 312 sus-  
a drop of 55 from the  
month. Misuse of rations  
76 suspensions, 19 under  
gust figure.

A variety of violations  
the suspension in Septem-  
the 76 drivers who were  
guilty by their local Wa-  
and Rationing Boards of  
of gasoline rations. "Fal-  
surrender sufficient coup-  
termination of essential  
ment for which rations v-  
sued" still leads the list.

Duration suspensions wer-  
out to flagrant violators—  
those obtaining gasoline u-  
suming name and misusing  
driving vehicles for which  
had been suspended, or  
possessing" coupons. Sever-  
pensions were issued to the  
got gasoline to return to  
another state, and then re-  
to this area.



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# GIN

# Were Navy Trial Stateme

## Officer Admits Selective Process

### Intelligence Men Worked For Coakley

YERBA BUENA, Oct. 18.—Among the prosecution's six rebuttal witnesses who testified today at the navy court martial of 50 Negro sailors were Lieutenants Patrick J. Gilmore Jr. and William O. Johnson, intelligence officers, who revealed that they had worked for Lieutenant Commander James F. Coakley, judge advocate at the present trial, when taking statements from the accused at Camp Shoemaker on August 18.

Under cross-examination by defense counsel, Lieutenant Gerald Veltmann Johnson admitted that he put into the statements what he thought was important for his report to Coakley.

Testifying as to statements made by three men who were involved in the original refusal to work and who are not among the accused, Johnson said that the statements included only what he felt should go into them, what was important "for our report to Lieutenant Commander Coakley."

Johnson also said that he did not inform the men that he was there to take statements until he felt that what they had to say should go into a statement.

When asked by Veltmann "if a man said he was afraid of ammunition, you didn't include that, did you?" Johnson answered "No."

He replied "yes" to Veltmann's query, "you put in what you thought was important for the prosecution, didn't you?"

Under questioning by Coakley, Lieutenant Gilmore testified that no compulsion was used on the men and no threats were made. However, under cross-examination, he disclosed that he didn't tell the men they wouldn't have to make statements if they didn't want to. He said they were made voluntarily and in answer to questions asked by him.

Gilmore admitted that the statements were dictated by him from notes which he took from his conversation with the men, did not include everything the men had said and were not in their own words. He said he, himself, determined what was to go into the statements and worded them as closely as possible to the men's own words.

### Sleepy Lagoon Boys Cleared

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 18 (UP).—Three youths who served one-year

### Marshall Demands Navy Probe

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 18.—Why was every man who loaded ammunition during the Port Chicago episode a Negro?

Why did the navy disregard the official warnings of San Francisco waterfront unions—before the disaster—that an explosion was inevitable if they persisted in using untrained seamen to load explosives?

Why were 50 sailors singled out for court martial action when approximately 400 men reacted in the same manner?

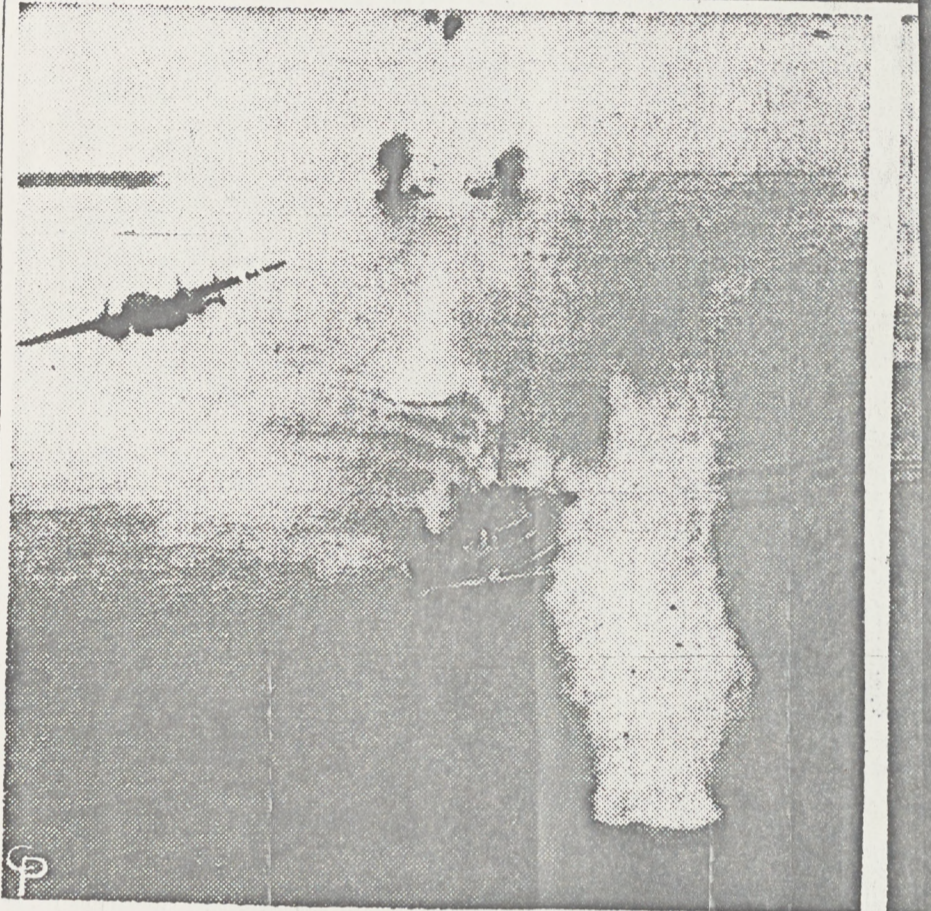
These were some of the questions asked by Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), in a prepared statement today which demanded the complete investigation by the Navy department "of the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the present mutiny court martial on Yerba Buena Island. (Full text on Page 4.)"

He charged that the 12th Naval District, with only a few minor exceptions, restricts the use of Negro seamen—regardless of training and qualifications—to laborers' work on share duty in segregated outfits; that the ammunition at Port Chicago was handled in an inefficient and unsafe manner prior to the explosion and the Negroes working on it are given absolutely no kind of instruction or training in the proper handling of it; and that the 50 accused seamen on trial were singled out in an inconsistent, haphazard and utterly unfair manner from over 400 whose actions were identical to those of the accused.

Other questions which Marshall said an investigation would clear up were why the judge-advocate at the present trial asserted three times that a hatch-tender with a broken wrist in a cast could work safely on ammunition and why the commissioned officers at Port Chicago were allowed to race their men, taking bets from \$5 up from division officers as to whose crew would load ammunition.

Marshall said he wanted to know if the Navy's neuro-psychiatric staff was consulted as to whether men who went through the explosion and were still finding mangled pieces of their friends' bodies could be brought back to normalcy simply by bringing in swing bands to play jive to them in the demolished buildings.

Why are some of the men who still refuse to load ammunition walking around free, he asked, and why were survivors left in the



SPECTACULAR BUT DISASTROUS for the Japanese was this United States Far East Air Force strike at Japanese

## Bay Region Needs 125,000 Homes by '45

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 18.—Federal Housing Administrator Abner H. Ferguson predicted in Washington today that the end of the war in Europe would touch off a home-building boom unprecedented in history and destined to last at least 10 years.

Ferguson said in an interview that construction would probably largely be of private residences in the \$6000-\$10,000 range, with the costs met to a large degree from record wartime civilian savings plus \$15,000,000,000 that returning veterans will spend for homes.

Meanwhile, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce research department declared today that there will be a need for 125,000 new private dwelling units costing approximately half a billion dollars, in the San Francisco Bay Area by 1945.

The figures, contained in a report released by the research department of the chamber, were arrived at as the result of studies of the population trend and the relation between housing and population in this area during 1940.

### PERMANENT HOMES

These studies indicated that 780,000 permanent dwelling units would be needed by 1945 to house the area's population of 2,300,000, while the completion of all units by the first of the year, authorized by the National Housing Agency's present program, would provide only 655,000 units.

## Czechs Being 4th Ukrainian Army Through Eastern

By VERN SM  
(People's World Foreign)

Czechoslovakia is being liberated. Soviet General Ivan Y. Petrov sent group crashing 12 to 31 miles into the across all of Ruthenia yesterday, after Pass and five other passes through the

make a mountain barrier around the northeastern end of Czechoslovakia. Early in the summer the Red Army operating in Ukraine and Poland north of Czechoslovakia captured the northends of these 2000 to 3000-foot high passes. British Information Services said. The Germans felt so worried about it that they spared about 12 divisions to stiffen 17 Hungarian divisions holding the Carpathian barrier.

The Red Army waited north of the mountains until the Third Ukrainians had captured Transylvania, which is south of Ruthenia, and had advanced into Hungary, south of both Slovakia and Ruthenia (which Hungary had "annexed").

Marshal Stalin's order of the day announcing the dramatic advance revealed that the only large towns in that part of Czechoslovakia, Korosmezo and Raho, are already liberated. Passes captured are the Tartar, Vyshkov, Berezhsky, Uzhok, Russky and Lupkov.

There is no reason to doubt the official Nazi announcement that a big Soviet offensive has broken into northeastern East Prussia

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Western



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Gilmore admitted that the statements were dictated by him from notes which he took from his conversation with the men, did not include everything the men had said and were not in their own words. He said he, himself, determined what was to go into the statements and worded them as closely as possible to the men's own words.

## Sleepy Lagoon Boys Cleared

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 18 (UP).—Three youths who served one-year prison sentences in connection with the Sleepy Lagoon slaying in August 1, 1942, of Jose Diaz, today were given a clean bill by the District Court of Appeals.

The opinion, written by Justice Thomas P. White, declared that the three had served their sentences and pointed out that "the interests of justice require a reversal of the judgment."

Other defendants in the same case won reversal of their convictions at a recent appeals court session.

## Marshall Demands Navy Probe

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 18.—Why was every man who loaded ammunition during the Port Chicago episode a Negro?

Why did the navy disregard the official warnings of San Francisco waterfront unions—before the disaster—that an explosion was inevitable if they persisted in using untrained seamen to load explosives?

Why were 50 sailors singled out for court martial action when approximately 400 men reacted in the same manner?

These were some of the questions asked by Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), in a prepared statement today which demanded the complete investigation by the Navy department "of the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the present mutiny court martial on Yerba Buena Island. (Full text on Page 4.)"

He charged that the 12th Naval District, with only a few minor exceptions, restricts the use of Negro seamen—regardless of training and qualifications—to laborers' work on share duty in segregated outfits; that the ammunition at Port Chicago was handled in an inefficient and unsafe manner prior to the explosion and the Negroes working on it are given absolutely no kind of instruction or training in the proper handling of it; and that the 50 accused seamen on trial were singled out in an inconsistent, haphazard and utterly unfair manner from over 400 whose actions were identical to those of the accused.

Other questions which Marshall said an investigation would clear up were why the judge-advocate at the present trial asserted three times that a hatch-tender with a broken wrist in a cast could work safely on ammunition and why the commissioned officers at Port Chicago were allowed to race their men, taking bets from \$5 up from division officers as to whose crew would load ammunition.

Marshall said he wanted to know if the Navy's neuro-psychiatric staff was consulted as to whether men who went through the explosion and were still finding mangled pieces of their friends' bodies could be brought back to normalcy simply by bringing in swing bands to play live to them in the demolished buildings.

Why are some of the men who still refuse to load ammunition walking around free, he asked, and why were survivors left in the ruins of Port Chicago and not given leaves or survivors' leaves.

## 'Battle of the Statler'

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18 (UP).—The Senate Campaign Expenditures Committee voted four to one today against a formal investigation of the "battle of the Statler" in which two naval officers came to blows with some AFL teamsters the night of President Roosevelt's first political address of the 1944 campaign.



SPECTACULAR BUT DISASTROUS for the Japanese was this United States Far East Air Force strike at Japanese

## Bay Region Needs 125,000 Homes by '45

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 18.—Federal Housing Administrator Abner H. Ferguson predicted in Washington today that the end of the war in Europe would touch off a home-building boom unprecedented in history and destined to last at least 10 years.

Ferguson said in an interview that construction would probably largely be of private residences in the \$6000-\$10,000 range, with the costs met to a large degree from record wartime civilian savings plus \$15,000,000,000 that returning veterans will spend for homes.

Meanwhile, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce research department declared today that there will be a need for 125,000 new private dwelling units costing approximately half a billion dollars, in the San Francisco Bay Area by 1945.

The figures, contained in a report released by the research department of the chamber, were arrived at as the result of studies of the population trend and the relation between housing and population in this area during 1940.

### PERMANENT HOMES

These studies indicated that 780,000 permanent dwelling units would be needed by 1945 to house the area's population of 2,300,000, while the completion of all units by the first of the year, authorized by the National Housing Agency's present program, would provide only 655,000 units.

In 1940 a total of 587,507 dwelling units were available for the Bay Area's population of 1,734,308, or one dwelling unit for every 2.95 persons in the area.

While some 68,000 permanent units will have been added to the 1940 total by the end of the year, about 52,000 temporary dwelling units will have been constructed under the National Housing Agency's program.

## Czechs Beir 4th Ukrainian Ar Through Eastern

By VERN SM  
(People's World Foreign)

Czechoslovakia is being liberated. Soviet General Ivan Y. Petrov sent group crashing 12 to 31 miles into the across all of Ruthenia yesterday, after Pass and five other passes through the make a mountain barrier around\*

the northeastern end of Czechoslovakia. Early in the summer the Red Army operating in Ukraine and Poland north of Czechoslovakia captured the northends of these 2000 to 3000-foot high passes British Information Services said. The Germans felt so worried about it that they spared about 12 divisions to stiffen 17 Hungarian divisions holding the Carpathian barrier.

The Red Army waited north of the mountains until the Third Ukrainians had captured Transylvania, which is south of Ruthenia, and had advanced into Hungary, south of both Slovakia and Ruthenia (which Hungary had "annexed").

Marshal Stalin's order of the day announcing the dramatic advance revealed that the only large towns in that part of Czechoslovakia, Korosmezo and Raho are already liberated. Passes captured are the Tartar, Vyshkov, Berezhsky, Uzhok, Russky and Lupkow. There is no reason to doubt the official Nazi announcement that a big Soviet offensive has broken into northeastern East Prussia and is menacing Insterburg.

### Pacific

Admiral Nimitz confirmed yesterday Japanese reports that his "sunken" Third Fleet raided the Manila area for the third time in three days Tuesday, with heavy bombing plane attacks. The only Japanese explanation is that the Third Fleet has been "recently replenished."

Navy Secretary Forrestal told a news conference in Washington yesterday some facts about the

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# Paradox in Mutiny Trial

## SOMEBODY HAD TO TAKE THE RAP—BUT THE GUILTY ONE WASN'T EVEN TRIED

By MARY LINDSAY

Tuesday morning at approximately 11:25 a verdict of guilty was reached in one of the most paradoxical trials ever held in California.

It had lasted for six weeks. Witnesses streamed in and out of the low-ceilinged, stuffy, flag-draped court room, on one side of which sat the defendants—50 drab-clad Negro sailors, on trial for their lives because someone in the 12th Naval District had decided that they had conspired to mutiny.

The paradox in the case wasn't evident to most of the people in the courtroom on Yerba Buena Island.

The seven high-ranking naval officers who composed the court-martial board didn't see it. The prosecutor certainly didn't see it. The reporters covering the trial didn't see it.

Not even the five competent young defense attorneys saw it.

But I'm quite sure that the 50 defendants saw it.

Because the paradox was that the real criminal—the real "conspirator" wasn't even on trial.

The paradox was that the 50 Negro sailors were taking the rap for a higher up who was so high-up that no one in the courtroom even dared to suggest that "he" might be to blame.

The United States Navy, and particularly the 12th Naval District were the real defendants at the bar.

The United States Navy, and particularly the 12th Naval District were on trial in the eyes of every thinking American, because of the Navy's Jim-Crow policy, its absolute refusal to accord to Negroes any but the most insignificant rights, its insistence upon segregation (except at "show-case" bases such as Treasure Island) its conscious policy of refusing in almost every instance to give Negroes any but menial, dirty, laborers duty.

The 50 Negro sailors, half of whom aren't old enough to vote, were tried for conspiracy to mutiny because they had refused to load ammunition three weeks after the explosion at Port Chicago in which they had seen over 300 of their fellow Jim-Crow victims blown to bits, three weeks after they had been on "work detail" picking up bloody and mangled bits of those 300 friends.

### ACT THROUGH FEAR

They were being tried because of an act which they committed through fear—fear which was largely based on the fact that they knew that thanks to the Navy's lack of training, they were not competent to handle explosives safely.

They knew before the explosion that ammunition at Port Chicago was not properly handled. Most of them were afraid then—and not afraid because Negroes are cowards—but because they had sense enough to know that explosives are dangerous unless skillfully handled. And they knew that they did not have that skill, and that the Navy was doing nothing to train them.

Then the explosion proved that their fears were correct—proved it by wrecking an entire town and killing at least 323 Negroes who had also been afraid.

## Five Negroes Honored For Heroism at Port Chicago

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 27.—Six navy enlisted men—five of them Negroes—today had received the navy and marine medals for heroic conduct in fighting fires on burning ammunition cars after the Port Chicago explosion.

Those named for the honor by Rear Admiral Carleton H. Wright, USN, commandant of the Twelfth Naval District were:

John Andrew Haskins Jr., pharmacist's mate, third class, Alexandria, Virginia; Herbert C. Reinhardsen, pharmacist's mate, third class; James A. Camper Jr., seaman first class, South Port Norris, New Jersey; William Edward Anderson, seaman first class, Murphysboro, Ill.; Richard L. McTere, seaman first class East Hancock, Mich.; Effus S. Allen, seaman second class, Detroit, Mich.

Haskins and Reinhardsen volunteered to proceed to the scene of the explosion with three navy ensigns, who also received awards, from their regular stations at Mare Island. The other four seamen were stationed at Port Chicago at the time of the explosion and voluntarily risked their lives to bring flames under control on burning ammunition cars.

who heard the Negro boys from Port Chicago talking about the betting between officers.

Unfortunately, the letter to Mrs. Roosevelt arrived too late. The explosion had happened.

There is no room for justice in a naval court-martial if justice happens to conflict with the prestige and honor of the navy. Four of the seven officers who sat on that board had their minds made up that the men were guilty the day the trial started. The only reason for holding a trial was to determine the degree of guilt.

One of the officers, a southern captain who referred to one of the accused as "that black bugger," had so completely made up his mind that he didn't bother to listen to any of the testimony except the rare parts that were funny. He quietly dozed off his hangovers every morning and quietly dozed over his lunch every afternoon.

The Navy holds that a conviction in this case was necessary for

the sake of morale and discipline. They point out that the effect upon sailors in the battle areas would be bad if these men were to get away with disobeying orders.

I say that the effect on the morale of 13,000,000 Negro Americans and countless millions of colored people in other countries is going to be worse.

The time is passed when second-class citizenship can be handed to one-tenth of our nation, whether civilians or military.

The Navy is doing a great job of fighting Fascists off foreign shores. It's doing a fighting job that every American can be proud of, but it's about time that it found out that it is a functioning part of a democracy, and that democracy means equality for all of the people in it.

The Army has already found it out, thanks to considerable prodding from President Roosevelt.

The Navy, at this point, is ripe for a very sharp poke in the ribs.

## 'Outlaw Race Bias'

### Discrimination, Not Prejudice, Is Root of Problem: McWilliams

(People's World Los Angeles Bureau)

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 27.—Racial fraternity can very definitely be advanced by legislative action, famed Attorney-Author Carey McWilliams told the Conference of the Church and Social Action today.



OVER 175 of Hollywood Central Committee members at Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles. Pictured are: Stanley Mosk, Patterson; standing: Gene Kelly, Jean Hershol.

## 'Lagoon' Boys To Be Guests Of L.A. CIO

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 27.—Sleepy Lagoon boys . . . 17 Mexican youth recently freed from murder conspiracy conviction imposed in 1942, will be guests of the CIO council here on November 3, it was announced today.

Uncle Sam may step in with priority, however, to call some of them up for military service the meantime.

Eight of them were greeted by 250 relatives and friends crowded the Hall of Justice here early this week for over an hour upon their releases as the result of a dismissal order by Superior Court Judge Clement D. Nye.

Three of the youths, Bobby Torres, Chepe Ruiz and Henry Leyva, who had been sentenced to life terms, were featured on the CIO daily radio program "Our Daily Bread."

When the appellate court recently reversed the whole conviction by unanimous vote, Justice Thomas P. White, who wrote the decision, sharply criticized Judge Charles W. Fricke for improper conduct.

Typical of the spirit of the freed defendants was the statement issued by Chepe Ruiz on the day of his release from San Quentin: "I intend to file for citizenship as soon as I am 21; in the meantime I am to join with others who are working to keep boys like myself of Mexican birth from being kicked around and to assure them of full education privileges."

Four of the boys were released.

are dangerous unless skillfully handled. And they knew that they did not have that skill, and that the Navy was doing nothing to train them.

Then the explosion proved that their fears were correct—proved it by wrecking an entire town and killing at least 323 Negroes who had also been afraid.

So three weeks later, flouting everything that modern neuropsychiatry has learned about shock, the Navy ordered them back to loading ammunition.

Is it any wonder they didn't go back? Is it any wonder that 350 beside these 50 "examples" didn't go back?

The Navy has denied them every right of equality in the service. It has denied them their right as Americans to serve in active sea duty. It has segregated them, insulted them, risked their lives by sheer criminal inefficiency and now it will send them to a Federal penitentiary for years in order to save its own face.

Somebody has to take the rap for the Port Chicago explosion. The 323 Negroes who died there couldn't do it, so the Navy found 50 other Negroes.

The sentences which the court-martial board on Yerba Buena Island gave those 50 men will not be made public for some time, not until the case has been reviewed by Rear Admiral Carleton Wright, who originally authorized the charges of "conspiracy to mutiny."

But the sentences will make no difference. It won't matter whether they are heavy or light.

What matters is that 50 Negroes were singled out of approximately 400 men, all of whom for the same reasons and with the same justification committed the same act.

What matters is that these 50 men were charged with "conspiracy to mutiny," a charge which evidence in the six weeks trial did very little to substantiate, except in the eyes of artery-hardened disciplinarians—for discipline's sake. They were convicted after a trial which, not once in its entire six weeks even approached the basic issue at stake.

#### SPEED UP

Only once was any criticism of the Navy allowed to come out in open court and that was an accident.

Early in the trial, one of the defendants when asked the routine question, "Have you anything to add to your testimony?" almost gave apoplexy to every naval officer in the room by saying, "Yes, I have. I want to say that the reason I was afraid to load ammunition was because I knew it wasn't handled properly. The white officers used to race each other and make me speed up."

The public relations officer assigned to the trial, after a word with the president of the court-martial board, immediately cornered all reporters, trying desperately to get them to suppress that bit of information.

And after that the defendants were instructed to consult with their attorneys before they said anything. The attorneys, being lieutenants in the navy and perforce required to get along with the brass hats, saw to it that no more slips were made.

Because that was a bad slip. The Navy denied the racing charge immediately, but it has been corroborated by dozens of men who were at Port Chicago before the explosion. And it is corroborated by a letter written to Mrs. Roosevelt early in July by a white woman who acts as a senior hostess at the Buchanan Street USO and

## Discrimination, Not Prejudice, Is Root of Problem: McWilliams

(People's World Los Angeles Bureau)

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 27.—Racial fraternity can very definitely be advanced by legislative action, famed Attorney-Author Carey McWilliams told the Conference of the Church and Social Action held by the Los Angeles Episcopal Diocese on the USC campus this week. "The root of the problem is not prejudice—" McWilliams told his audience of clerical and laity members, "the whole concept of prejudice has confused the issue—the problem is discrimination not prejudice. We can do much to eliminate discrimination by law."

With discrimination and segregation abolished, McWilliams reasoned, prejudice will have lost its breeding grounds. Segregation makes minorities more visible and others more conscious of them, he added and cited as an example the fact that the disturbances of last year in Detroit occurred only in areas exclusively white or colored, that there has been peace always in residential sections of mixed races.

"The whole problem," said McWilliams, who served as chairman of the Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee which sought and won exoneration of the Mexican-American boys railroaded to prison on race prejudice, "is the extending, deepening and strengthening of democracy."

#### FULL EMPLOYMENT

"Unless there is some kind of stable world organization coming out of this war, unless full employment is guaranteed—if we have unemployment up to six, seven and eight million and show-tendency to increase beyond that—then we can expect a vast increase in racial tensions in this country."

Jack Burke, examiner in Fair Employment Practices Committee, who was one of three other panel speakers, agreed with McWilliams that segregation creates greater problems than any it solves. While FEPC has done much to eliminate discrimination in hiring, there remains a certain amount of discrimination within plants, Burke said.

Dr. David E. Henley, of the American Friends (Quaker) Service Committee, related the processes of his organization in fighting race prejudice by simple refusal to make any distinction. He recalled that prior to the Civil War, the Quakers opposed slavery and often bought slaves and gave them freedom.

Dr. Henley allowed that the approach of his organization was not positive enough ever to effect a solution but that they "kept nibbling at the edges."

Harold M. Kingsley, director of Pilgrim House which operates in Little Tokyo here, brought out the fact that discrimination followed lines other than color in refueling the resentment of established residents of Los Angeles of all colors to the many in-migrants which have swelled the city in the past few years.

"The greatest single need in the United States today," McWilliams offered, "is for an over-all strategy combining educational, legislative and political attacks on the problem."

After tracing the origin and development of prejudice both against Chinese and Mexicans in California and against Negroes in the South, McWilliams outlined steps which should be taken immediately.

Getting rid of formalized active

segregation is the first step, he said, by establishment of a permanent FEPC, new civil rights legislation elaborating principles of U. S. Constitutional Amendments 13, 14, 15 such as anti-lynching, and anti-poll tax laws and elimination from immigration laws any mention of race.

"Process by which the Negro is being culturally assimilated," McWilliams said, "and culturally matured has been enormously accelerated in the past 10 years. To the very extent that the South sees the Federal Government is going to effect changes the South makes its own changes. The administration's policy (against poll tax, for FEPC, etc.) does not stiffen resistance among Southern whites, it forces them into making concessions they should have made years ago."

### The War Comes First, Says Sgt. Joe Lewis

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 27 (UP).—Staff Sergeant Joe Louis, world heavyweight champion, paused during a tour of Eastern war plants to announce he had no plans for boxing professionally until after the war.

Commenting on a report that Mike Jacobs sought to match him with Billy Conn next summer at New York, Louis said he could not discuss such a match, adding "lets get the war over first."

#### OAKLAND

### The East Bay California Labor School

2030 BROADWAY, Oakland

#### Two 8-Week Language Courses

Conversational Spanish \$4  
Mon., Oct. 30th 8 P.M.

Instructor:  
Martina Luisa Nichols

Beginner's Russian \$4

Instructor:  
Nicholas Karnaukh  
Of the University of California  
Extension Division  
Fri., Nov. 3rd 7:30 P.M.

#### SAN FRANCISCO

### Lithuanian Knitter & War Relief Organization

#### 3rd Anniversary Celebration

#### DINNER & DANCE

225 VALENCIA ST.

Sunday, October 29

DOOR OPENS AT 1:30 P.M.  
DINNER at 3 P.M.

Proceeds: Lithuanian War Relief

#### SAN FRANCISCO

### CALIFORNIA LABOR SCHOOL

## Mid-Term Party

Sat., Oct. 28th 8:30 P.M. 216 Market St.

Surprise Entertainment  
Music by Hot Trio

led by Chepe Ruiz on the

his release from San Quentin  
"I intend to file for citize  
as soon as I am 21; in the  
time I am to join with other  
are working to keep boys like  
self of Mexican birth from  
kicked around and to assure  
ful education privileges."

Four of the boys were rel  
earlier on parole and five s  
their sentences.

### Lithuania Aid Fete Tomorrow

SAN FRANCISCO, October  
—The Lithuanian Knitters  
War Aid Group will hold its  
anniversary celebration this  
day, October 29, at 225 Valenc

A turkey dinner will be s  
starting at 3 p. m. and dan  
will follow.

In its three years of exist  
the group has raised over \$200  
Russian war relief. It was  
nated through the Russian  
sulate here. They have  
knitted hundreds of garments  
have sent 200 kits of article  
the Russian partisans.

### Heddy Lamarr to Become a Mother

HOLLYWOOD, Oct. 27 (U  
Film star Heddy Lamarr retur  
with her actor-husband John  
der from a two weeks vaca  
at Big Bear Lake, disclosed  
expects to become a mother  
the middle of June.

The child will be the coup  
first.

The sultry actress who mar  
Loder in May, 1943, said  
planned to make one more mo  
picture at MGM before retir  
from the screen to await  
baby's birth.

Miss Lamarr has an ado  
son, Jamsie, aged five.