

alles' America:

Right To Belong To Fraternal Group Strangled By Gov't Attack On IWO

By BETH RODNEY

"The U.S. Supreme Court today declined to disturb a New York state action liquidating the International Workers Order. In a brief order the Court rejected the IWO's appeal."

This short news report appearing under a Washington dateline last week set the stage for a new act in the play of forces that are desperately trying to make thought-control an accepted way of American life. As the executive committee of the IWO declared in its statement, issued after the surprising action, or rather inaction, of the Supreme Court was made public:

"The denial of judicial review by the Supreme Court opens the floodgate of attack upon all organizations, and actually strikes a blow to the Bill of Rights with its guarantee of the rights of freedom of speech and association. This is indeed a sad day in the history of America when the right of people to associate and belong to an organization of their own choice has been trampled upon."

VICTIM OF McCARTHYISM

THE International Workers Order is an inter-racial fraternal and insurance society of some 160,000 Americans, organized during the depression year of 1930. Its main appeal was to the nationality groups, to working people, and to the Negro people. It filled the need of many thousands of families for low-cost, cooperative insurance together with a fraternal program based on equality, democracy and security. It is financially sound and its record of integrity and service is unsurpassed by any fraternal organization in America. It has always been a labor organization and pioneered in the struggle for social security legislation; it fought

discrimination, lynching, jim crow and anti-Semitism; it defended civil liberties. Its record of patriotic activity in World War Two is a matter of public knowledge. In the words of the Policyholders Protective Committee, "For this, the Order incurred the enmity of bigots and racists, of reactionaries who hurl the charge 'socialism' and 'red' at any social advance — of the super-patriots — all these desire the liquidation of the IWO."

A STIRRING editorial in the New York Yiddish daily, the *Morning Freiheit* discusses the effect of the liquidation edict on the organized fraternal movement in the United States. It exposes the role of the "Forward" clique who claim to speak officially for the Workmen's Circle, also a fraternal organization. Irrefutable proof exists that members of the "Forward" staff gave "testimony" that contributed greatly to the issuance of the liquidation order against the IWO.

This "testimony" was directed against the Jewish Fraternal Order in the United States, an affiliate of the IWO.

The JPFO always exposed cheap political machination of the "Forward" clique and attempted to live up to the fraternal ideal of brotherhood and peace among the nations of the world. Many times this did make the "Forward" or the Workmen's Circle leadership show in a very favorable light. It was therefore with malicious glee that the "Forward" announced the decision of the Supreme Court to reject the appeal of the IWO and pat itself on the back for its part in giving "evidence" that made the action of the Commissioner of Insurance possible.

The *Morning Freiheit* points out in its editorial that this action openly labels the "Forward" as nothing more nor less than an informer, a "mosser," a creat-

ure hated and shunned by all decent thinking people.

THE *Freiheit* goes on to strike a warning, however, by pointing out that there is a campaign of fear under way at the present moment directed against socialists and socialism. The Workmen's Circle and the "Forward" both profess never to have deserted the ideals of socialism and consequently they are in the direct line of attack.

The battle to have the Supreme Court review the case of the IWO is by no means over, but should the attempt to liquidate it become successful, Catholic fraternalists and members of the Masonic Order, or the Workmen's Circle, are no safer than they were under Hitler when their organizations were declared "subversive."

Certainly any organization which professes to have socialist ideals is



even in greater danger. While it would be a form of poetic justice should the Workmen's Circle be next in line, yet all freedom-loving people would fight sincerely to see that this does not happen to the Workmen's Circle or any other fraternal organizations, just as they must fight to prevent the carrying out of this decree against the International Workers Order. The fight for the IWO is a fight for the most cherished rights of a freedom loving people.