

Ault Too Busy to Give Evidence on Japanese

Labor Leader May Appear Later Before Congressional Committee—Hearings Here End Today—"Reds" Called Defenders.

AN absence of any of the labor leaders invited by the House subcommittee on immigration and naturalization to testify before Chairman Albert Johnson and Representative John E. Raker, who returned to Seattle this morning to hear their views on the Japanese problem, upset plans to obtain Seattle union men's opinions this morning.

The committee had requested E. B. Ault to appear, but he pleaded that he did not have authority to speak for the Central Labor Council and was too busy in the morning to appear anyway. He offered to file a personal statement, but the committee announced it would await the time when Mr. Ault was relieved from the duties that prevented his appearance and could testify. He likely will be called late today.

The committee heretofore has stated that though testimony has been asked from labor sources none has been offered and today had been set aside to hear any testimony that could be obtained from labor leaders.

John J. Sullivan, former assistant United States district attorney, appeared before the committee this morning to protest against what he termed unfairness in hearings for deportation. He said that immigration officers examined aliens who were picked up and threatened with deportation and after obtaining their statements informed them they had a right of counsel.

Sullivan also declared that information conveyed by letter or word from one officer to another was used by immigration agents in determining the cases. He said that on appeals to the court this sort of examination had been condemned but no change in the practice had been made. Sullivan asked the committee to amend the law to guarantee aliens full protection by lawyers of their choosing.

When today's hearing on Japanese immigration problems closes in Seattle the subcommittee of the House committee on immigration and naturalization probably will take a recess of an indefinite period. Later in the summer Chairman Johnson will make a trip to Yakima and take such testimony as is offered there. Representative Raker, who is expected to leave for his home in California at once, will stop in Hood River, Ore., to make a personal investigation of conditions in the Columbia River fruit belt. Representative John C. Box left the committee at Tacoma yesterday afternoon to go to his home in Texas and only Chairman Johnson and Representative Raker were left this morning when hearings in Seattle were resumed in the Federal Building at 11:30 o'clock to hear the testimony offered. The subcommittee began its Pacific Coast hearing in California more than three weeks ago, with nine members present.

Chairman Johnson and Representative Raker personally interviewed the I. W. W. held in the Grays Harbor county jail at Montesano awaiting the outcome of their fight for a new trial after having been convicted of murder in the second degree for the Armistice Day tragedy at Centralia. The two members of Congress saw the convicted men on Sunday, but beyond discovering that the I. W. W. still were defiant and active propagandists did not get much information.

It developed during the trip of the congressional committee into Southeastern Washington that Elmer Smith, the Centralia attorney who was acquitted of the charge of murder in connection with the Armistice Day shooting, will make a five weeks' campaign tour of the East some time before the election and will endeavor to raise a defense fund for the I. W. W. Smith had been suggested as a candidate for Congress from the Second District, but he believes the political field in the East is more fruitful.

Teacher Defends Japanese.

Defense of the Japanese by Mrs. E. T. Packard, a teacher of the Orientals, and strong anti-Japanese testimony by two Tacoma labor leaders were features of the testimony taken by the House subcommittee at Tacoma yesterday afternoon. Major Bert C. Ross, deputy prosecuting attorney and representative of the veterans' anti-Japanese organizations, pleaded with the Congressmen to pass a Japanese registration and exclusion act and deny citizenship to their children, while J. Charles Dennis, city attorney of Tacoma, declared that a large "red" element in the labor organizations of Seattle and Tacoma were internationalists who had no complaint to make of Japanese aggression.

Incidentally Richard Mansfield White of Seattle, who described himself as a mining geologist who had extensive experience in employing men, told the committee that both the Canadian and Mexican borders were unprotected to a degree that

made smuggling of undesirable aliens into the United States an easy matter.

The labor testimony taken at Tacoma yesterday followed a discussion in the morning wherein Chairman Johnson stated that the committee had asked for, but did not obtain any testimony from Seattle labor leaders. The decision to return to Seattle this morning was made to enable the committee to call E. B. Ault or any other available labor leaders, but particularly some who are affiliated with the faction in control of the Central Labor Council. Incidentally the committee also desired to hear Marshal K. Snell, a well known Tacoma attorney, who several years ago purchased a farm near Puyallup and who had both employed and leased land to Japanese.

Japanese Barber Shops.

H. C. Pickering, secretary of the Tacoma Barbers' Union and a member of the State Board of Barber Examiners, told the committee that there are 317 Japanese barbers in this state. There are 23 Japanese barber shops, 39 Japanese barbers and 19 apprentices of that race in Tacoma, while Seattle has 107 apprentice Japanese barbers. Spokane, he testified, was the only city where white barbers worked with the Japanese. In that city students of a barber college gained practice in two Japanese shops.

"Most of the Japanese barber shops have living quarters and a laundry in the rear," said Pickering.

"Do they maintain a boothblack stand in their shops?" asked Representative Raker.

"No," replied Pickering, "the Japanese will not shine shoes."

"Have they manicurists?" asked Chairman Johnson.

"The class of people who patronize the Japanese barbers do not have their finger nails manicured," retorted Pickering.

The barbers' examiner said that patronage of whites kept the Japanese barber shops running.

Thomas A. Bishoff, secretary of the Cooks and Waiters' Union of Tacoma, told the committee that there are eleven Japanese restaurants and five Japanese "noodle joints" in Tacoma. There are 45 white restaurants of all kinds in Tacoma.

"What is a 'noodle joint?'" asked Representative Raker.

"They sell Oriental food and cater to the night trade—jazz stuff, you know," Bishoff replied.

"Red" Element for Japanese.

Bishoff said that one man checked up all the Japanese restaurants, that they had similar bills of fare and uniform prices. He said the Orientals competed with every man and woman in the catering trade and declared the Japanese women did not obey the state eight-hour law. He said he had tried 15 times to convict employers of working women more than eight hours a day and has lost each case.

In an effort to discover Bishoff's opinion on the Japanese problem the committee learned he favored their exclusion, but protested against action that would put the merchants out of business and make them competitors in the labor market. Bishoff said he heard a great deal of fear expressed by laboring men that the merchants would be protected but labor would not. Members of the committee told him they could not legislate the merchants out of business and force them into the labor market. Then Bishoff was asked if he heard any defense of the Japanese in labor meetings and he replied:

"I've heard some of those I guess you would call Bolsheviki defend the Japanese. I've heard them say all blood was red, whether in a white man or a Japanese or a negro."

"And they favored the red flag, too, I suppose," observed Representative Raker.

"Well, one of them did, all right," Bishoff replied, "for he waved a red flag right after he got through making a speech for the Japanese."

J. Charles Dennis, city attorney of Tacoma, also declared a "Red" element in the labor unions of Tacoma and Seattle are pro-Japanese but that conservative labor union leaders are not. Dennis said that the Japanese parents in Tacoma obtained both birth and death certificates to send to Japanese authorities.

Kept Mill Running.

T. S. Galbraith, manager of the Eatonville Lumber Co., which has a plant thirty-five miles from Tacoma and employs between 250 and 275 men, said he had been employing Japanese for ten years. He declared good white workmen did not protest against working with good Japanese laborers, but itinerant whites did. Galbraith declared that but for the Japanese who worked steadily he would not have been able to keep his plant running regularly, for white labor was uncertain and the leaving of a few men would compel him to lay off a full crew.

Maj. Bert C. Ross, representing veterans' anti-Japanese associations, said in answer to a question by