

Child Camp Head Listed as a Red Pleads 5th Amendment 30 Times

By MILTON BRACKER

A children's camp near Poughkeepsie is still run by a former officer of the defunct International Workers Order identified as a Communist, it was charged at a state legislative inquiry yesterday.

Dave Greene, the man involved, invoked the Fifth Amendment more than thirty times as he testified at the Supreme Court Building in Foley Square. He appeared at the opening hearing of the Joint Legislative Committee to Study Charitable and Philanthropic Agencies and Organizations. The amendment protects witnesses against self-incrimination.

The committee's mandate was altered last April to permit it to study alleged Red subversion of children's camps. At the outset, former State Senator Bernard Tompkins, now general counsel to the committee, declared that

exploitation of campers was a long-established international tactic of communism.

Mr. Tompkins indicated that about a dozen camps, in various parts of the state, would figure in testimony over three or four days. But the entire first day was devoted to Camp Kinderland, on a 180-acre site near Hopewell Junction, Dutchess County.

The testimony brought out:

¶ Although dissolution of the organization was ordered in June, 1951, after a trial in which Mr. Greene, its recording secretary, was labeled a card-carrying Red, he became manager of Camp Lakeland, of which Kinderland is a part, in March, 1954.

¶ Campers at Kinderland in 1947-48 were taught to sing Communist songs, including "Bandera Rossa," ["Red Flag"] and were briefed by counselors

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CHILD CAMP HEAD ACCUSED AS RED

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on the virtues of the Soviet system as against the American.

Three hundred parents met at Kinderland on Sunday, expressed faith in its principles, and denounced the inquiry to which Mr. Greene had been subpoenaed as a "cheap political trick by Governor Harriman and Senator [Edward P.] Larkin [chairman of the committee]."

The hearing opened with the presentation of documents by Mr. Tompkins, dating back to 1928, tending to show that world communism had always been interested in working with children. From one pamphlet of the Young Communist League, Mr. Tompkins read that " * * * here the techniques of some of the bourgeois children's organizations, especially the Boy Scouts, should be tried."

Alfred J. Bohlinger, former State Insurance Superintendent, then detailed the case he had brought against the I. W. O., a fraternal benevolent society with \$110,000,000 in outstanding insurance, on the ground that it was under Red domination. He read in detail from Supreme Court Justice Henry Clay Greenberg's decision, since confirmed, ordering the liquidation of the group.

Camp Manager Protests

Mr. Tompkins then called Mr. Greene. The camp manager promptly asserted that it was an outrage for the committee to have summoned him and his associates, at a time when 325 children and 100 adults were still in camp. He declared that there was no reason why the committee could not have waited until the end of the season—Aug. 31—and added that the committee must bear the responsibility if "anything should happen" in camp while he was away.

But when Mr. Tompkins sought to relate Mr. Greene's present job to his past affiliation with the workers order, and asked di-

rectly about the witness' past and current Communist ties, the response was a reiterated invocation of the Fifth Amendment. Mr. Greene invariably coupled the Fifth with the "State Constitution," without specifying a section. (Article I, Sections 11 and 12, deals with equal protection of laws and civil rights generally.)

Mr. Tompkins offered pamphlets indicating that Camp Kinderland had previously advertised its I. W. O. connection—and one photo showing a camp tablecloth with a hammer-and-sickle on it. He read from correspondence evidencing repeated activity by Mr. Greene in the camp program of the workers order. He asked directly if Mr. Greene had not served as director of all youth schools for the I. W. O.

"In view of the fact that this is an effort to smear the camp with my individual past record, I refuse to answer that question," Mr. Greene replied.

"Do you mean that your past record would smear the camp?" Mr. Tompkins pressed.

"I'm very proud of my past record," said the witness. "It's the committee that is attempting to smear the camp."

Q. We have sworn information that you are a member of the Communist party. Will you take this opportunity to deny it? A. Under other circumstances, I might. Under the present circumstances, I feel that the question relates to my personal beliefs and associations and I don't see why I should.

At each refusal to respond, Senator Larkin formally directed the witness to do so. Mr. Greene then cited the Fifth Amendment and the State Constitution. The chairman redirected him, he again refused, and thus with the record doubly clear, Mr. Tompkins proceeded.

Mr. Greene would not discuss any of his associates, the political beliefs of Kinderland's sixty counselors, or why the camp was dropped from the 1955 listing in a bulletin of the State Department of Commerce. He spoke freely only once—when Mr. Tompkins told him he could read his prepared statement.

In that he traced the thirty-three-year history of the camp,



The New York Times

WITNESS AT HEARING:
Dave Greene, manager of Camp Lakeland, as he appeared for testimony before Joint Legislative Committee to study charitable and philanthropic organizations.

which he said, while "primarily Jewish," welcomed campers of other races and religions. "To accuse this camp of subversion is a violation, a travesty, of the elemental rights of the American people," he said.

After Mr. Greene told of the Sunday meeting at which the parents supposedly backed the camp and denounced the inquiry, Mr. Tompkins and Senator Larkin tried to get him to say that he had written the parents' declaration. The witness persistently denied this. His testimony ended in another flurry of invocations of the Amendment and the Constitution.

Soldier Tells of Camp

Stanley Wechkin, 20 years old, a private at Fort Dix, and a Kinderland camper in 1947-48—when he was 12 and 13—testi-

fied that he and other children were taught songs like the Soviet Anthem, and a Loyalist Spanish tune called "Viva La XV Brigada." (Long Live the Fifteenth Brigade.)

The youth said groups at Kinderland bore names like "Paul Robeson," "Ana Pauker" (former Rumanian Foreign Minister) and "Henry Wallace." He said he had actually been induced by his camp experience to join three groups, of which two were later cited as subversive by the Attorney General. Private Wechkin said he had cut these ties before the war in Korea.

The final witness was Harry Sandler of Philadelphia, secretary-treasurer of Camp Lakeland, Inc., operator of Kinderland. He also invoked the Fifth Amendment regarding I. W. O. ties, and was generally non-informative on the camp's financial affairs.

The hearing will resume at 10 A. M. today.