

"SO HELP ME GOD"
by Ray L. Dudley

I stood in the blazing sun at Ellington Field, in Texas, last Monday and watched the cadets file by, fine manly chaps, watched them come into the hall in which they were to receive their wings as commissioned officers in the United States Army Air Force. My third and last boy, a lad of 19, was among them.

Two years ago his mother and I had seen a similar group file into the chapel at Ellington to receive their wings, and our second boy was among them. Today he and his elder brother, who had chosen Navy Air, are memories, precious memories, it is true, but boys to be spoken of in hushed tones as boys who would have made good citizens, two boys whose memories will never be dimmed in the eyes of their father and mother. They, with thousands of others, have made the supreme sacrifice for America as they knew it and loved it.

Then Monday we heard again the prospective officers take the oath necessary to their commissions: "I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter: SO HELP ME GOD."

For a moment my thoughts drifted from the son whose burned body lies somewhere in France and from the other son who lies in native soil...

Our forefathers who wrote the Constitution knew that they were giving to future generations a document so precious that it would be worth the loss of American lives to preserve...and they knew that there would arise enemies in it, domestic as well as foreign.

Then my mind went back to a time nearly three years ago, when my first two boys volunteered, and the pledge I made them then:

"To the best of my meagre ability I shall do all I can to defend against foes at home the institutions you boys have enlisted to uphold...and I shall do that without fear of sacrifice if it costs me everything I have, including my life, so help me God."

It was not necessary that I pledge them my fullest efforts to help prosecute the war...they could have expected no less of me as an American and a father.

The casualty lists over the country name thousands of parents whose boys have been lost and whose sons are as precious to them as mine were to me. I claim no distinction as the parent of boys who have died in the service. I can only claim to be among those to whom this war is a deadly serious thing, and I wish my claim to be listed among those who resent with every atom of their being, the efforts which are being made by the Hillmans, the Browders, the Murrays and others, including our President, to nullify the sacrifices of thousands of American boys.

As I heard the oath to defend the Constitution repeated by the young men at Ellington, I could not but remember the remarks which have been made about it by Americans of foreign birth who would seek to destroy it..."a scrap of paper...an outmoded document...a bill of property rights rather than a bill of human rights." And these are the men who are asking that we trust our country to them.

The situation under which the Communist Front in America is trying to wield control over our country through the capture of one of our great political parties, is so preposterous as to be almost incredible. But make no mistake—the threat is a real one. That a Russian-born radical, with all of the class hate of his native land should aspire to control this country is so fantastic that many cannot believe it. But it is true.

That he and his fellows have openly boasted that their organization, the CIO, is raising millions as a war chest to help keep Roosevelt in power, indicates a blatant confidence in their victory. That this money should be extracted from hundreds of thousands of members whose membership was forced on them, is a disgrace. That they get away with it is a shameful tribute to the close association they have with our Department of Justice.