Former Lowell Man Facing Action in G. E. "Red" Probe

Witulad Piekarsi Awaits Decision of McCarthy Hearing

30-Year-Old Worker at Lynn Plant Appeared Before Senate Group in Boston

By Fred W. Denton

LOWELL — Witulad Piekarsi, 30-year-old former General Electric employee appeared before a subcommittee of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee yesterday, and after an hour of hard-hitting questioning by the subcommittee's chairman, Sen. Joseph K. McCarthy, he will have to await the subcommittee's report before he can know whether he will be cited for contempt or not.

Piekarsi was cited for contempt of Congress last December, charged with failing to answer questions of the subcommittee. He was ordered to appear before the subcommittee yesterday and was expected to be questioned about his alleged part in a Communist cell in Lynn, Mass., to which he has been charged.

The subcommittee, which is investigating the activities of the Communist party in the United States, is expected to report its findings to the full Senate, which will then have the final word on the matter.

Piekarsi has denied the charges and has said that he was not a member of the Communist party.

The subcommittee has the power to hold witnesses in contempt of Congress, and if Piekarsi is found guilty of contempt, he may be imprisoned for up to one year or fined up to $1,000, or both.

In his opening statement, Sen. McCarthy said that Piekarsi was a member of the Communist party and had been active in its affairs.

Piekarsi has refused to answer the questions of the subcommittee and has said that he will not answer unless he is guaranteed a fair trial.

The subcommittee has been investigating the activities of the Communist party in the United States for several months, and it is expected to report its findings to the full Senate shortly.

If Piekarsi is found guilty, he may be imprisoned for up to one year or fined up to $1,000, or both.
Foimei Lowell Man
not committed sabotage or espionage on the grounds of the Fifth Amendment, Piekarski declined to state whether the government had testified that he had admitted to such acts. Neither Piekarski nor his counsel, Lawrence Shuman, of Boston, could be reached for comment.

The government had introduced a translation of a statement by McCarthy that had been given to the Subcommittee on Muckraking in the United States Senate, in which McCarthy had alleged that various individuals had been involved in espionage activities.

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