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NEWS BULLETIN NO. 66

APRIL 30 DEPORTATION HEARING SCHEDULED FOR USLP MEMBER --

USLP TESTIMONY TO SHOW MCCARRAN ACT DOES NOT APPLY

CHICAGO, April 28 (IPS) -- Polly Skinner Johnson, a Canadian member of the U.S. Labor Party and National Caucus of Labor Committees who was denied permanent visa status in the United States because of her membership in these two organizations, will appear at a deportation hearing scheduled in Federal Court here Friday, April 30, to argue that none of the McCarran Act provisions which define organizations as subversive apply to the NCLC or U.S. Labor Party. Mrs. Johnson received notice to appear in Federal Court to "show cause why she should not be deported" after U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officials told her she had missed a March 23 hearing with INS officials which neither she nor her attorneys had been informed of.

Mrs. Johnson was denied permanent residence status under Section 212 A28C of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act -- the McCarran Act -- despite the fact that she is married to a U.S. citizen. Section 28C denies residence status to:

"Aliens who are members of or affiliated with (i) the Communist Party of the United States (ii) any other totalitarian party of United States (iii), the Communist Political Association (iv), the Communist or any other totalitarian party of any state of the United States, of any foreign state (v), any section, subsidiary, branch, affiliate, or subdivision of any such association or party, or (vi) the direct predecessors or successors of any such association or party, regardless of what name such group or organization may have used, may now bear, or may hereafter adopt."

In testimony to the Federal Court, NCLC National Committee member Gerald Rose will cite the NCLC's Statement of Founding Principles and other documents to show that the NCLC and U.S. Labor Party are unique democratic organizations, and that the classification of the organizations under Section 28C constitutes at best a slander on their goals and policies. The USLP and NCLC expect to force the INS to state precisely on what grounds the two organizations have been classified under Section 28C, setting the stage for damage suits and major constitutional claims should the INS attempt to proceed with the deportation of Mrs. Johnson.

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The hearing will affect three other active immigration cases involving the application of the McCarran Act.

Abbot Wright, a Canadian NCLC member in Milwaukee seeking permanent visa status has been interrogated on his political views throughout early interviews with the INS, and threatened with deportation. NCLC National Executive Committee member Christopher White is awaiting a decision from the INS on his application for a permanent residence visa following a day-long interview on his political beliefs which INS officials said would determine whether or not he was granted permanent visa status. Two members of the North American Labor Party in Canada, Francois Bierre and Carlos Dallaville, have challenged the INS for denying them entry into the U.S. under Section 212 28 G of the Immigration Act.

The U.S. Labor Party has scheduled a press conference for 11:00 AM Friday, April 30, on the steps of the Federal Court Building in Chicago. Rose, Mrs. Johnson and her attorney, George Pontikes, will be available for press interviews at the conference.