

TEACHERS SECRETLY QUIZZED ON LOYALTY

Dr. Linville Calls Advisory Council on Qualifications New Lusk Committee.

OPEN MEETING PLEA DENIED

Five Summoned, Four Appear, One a Woman Whose Case Had Been Settled.

VETERAN IS QUESTIONED

Man Who Enlisted and Became Officer Already Rated A1 by Education Board.

Charging that the Advisory Council on the Qualification of Teachers was a "secret tribunal" with power to recommend the dismissal of teachers whose views were "not wholly reactionary," Dr. Henry R. Linville, President of the Teachers' Union, appeared at the Bar Association yesterday where four teachers had been summoned before the council, and announced that he would fight to open the doors of the tribunal to the public. Gilbert E. Roe, counsel to the Teachers' Union, was permitted to represent a teacher before the council, but his plea to have the doors of the council chamber opened to the public was denied by the committee, which is headed by Archibald Stevenson, formerly counsel to the Lusk Committee.

Dr. Linville objected to the personnel of the committee, which he called "a new Lusk Committee." Its other members are Conde Pallen, editor of The Catholic Encyclopedia; Olivia Leventritt, a former member of the Board of Education; Hugh Frayne, New York representative of the American Federation of Labor, and Finley J. Shepard.

The council, appointed recently by Dr. Frank Graves, State Commissioner of Education, is acting under Chapter 666 of the Laws of 1921, which provides that no certificates shall be issued to any teacher who has not been examined and qualified as to loyalty to American institutions.

Those Who Were Examined.

The teachers examined yesterday were Garibaldi Lapolla, teacher of English at De Witt Clinton High School since 1910; Simon Goldblum, teacher of history at the same institution since 1914; Charles Ham, teacher of history at Stuyvesant High School, and a Miss Horowitz. Miss Sarah Hyams, cooking teacher, of Public School 68, was summoned to appear, but was not reached, so her case was put over until 3:30 P. M. next Tuesday.

Lapolla, who enlisted in the Medical Reserve Corps during the war and became an artillery officer, was asked if he, together with Ham and others, signed a letter concerning conscientious objectors, published in The New Republic in 1918. The signers of the letter suggested that men with conscientious scruples against killing be permitted to serve in non-combatant corps. Lapolla and Ham, it is understood, admitted that they had signed the letter.

Lapolla attempted to learn from the council the origin of the charges against him, but was unable to obtain the information, it was said.

Members of the Teachers Union said it was unfair in the council to call a man who had received a No. 1 rating for loyalty from Principal Francis H. Paul, Ellen A. Garrigues, head of the English Department, and John H. Tildsley, Associate Superintendent.

Goldblum is said to have been questioned concerning reported utterances in his classroom, in which he was quoted as having said in 1918 that the reports of German atrocities had been exaggerated.

Referring to the case of Miss Hyams, Dr. Linville said he knew of no reason why she should be called, as the Board of Education had passed on her status. She had been accused of membership in the Left Wing Socialist Party, but had proved that she had merely signed an application and gone no further. She was reprimanded and after a nervous breakdown appeared in her classroom a few days ago. Miss Horowitz's loyalty card, signed at the request of the educational officials by all teachers, had been misplaced and the council yesterday straightened out the facts in her case.

Reporters Excluded.

Mr. Stevenson declined to permit reporters to be present at the hearings yesterday, saying that no formal charges had been made against the teachers, but that the "cases" had been referred to the council by Commissioner Graves. He thought that, in the interests of the teachers, the hearings should not be open to the public.

Mr. Frayne was asked whether the council was examining teachers because of their statements or actions in the classroom or whether the scope of the inquiry embraced acts or utterances outside the classroom.

"It is all that," he replied. The council inquired into cases of teachers accused of acts or utterances in or out of the classroom, he said, the purpose being to determine the teacher's fitness in respect of character and loyalty. Anyone, Mr. Frayne said, parents, fellow-teachers, or students, could file complaints before the committee or through the State Commissioner of Education, although most cases come to the committee from the State Commissioner.

It was charged by Dr. Linville and the Teachers' Union that there was no appeal to the courts by a teacher from the State Commissioner, who would not refer cases to the council unless he desired to abide by their decision. Mr. Stevenson said the State Commissioner was not obliged to abide by the decision of the tribunal, but could grant another hearing. He said that thus far the tribunal has examined fifteen teachers and made no adverse reports to Dr. Graves.