

## [A Committee From the Right]

Beliefs & Customs - Folkstuff

Accession no.

w 8170

Date received 10/10/40

Consignment no. 1

Shipped from Wash. off

Label

Amount 3 p. (incl. 2 forms

WPA L. C. PROJECT Writers' UNIT

Form —3 Folklore Collection (or Type

Title ...A committee from the right

Place of origin N. Y. Date 4/18/39

Project worker Terry Roth

Project editor

Remarks [?] Beliefs and Customs - Folk Stuff 17

FOLKLORE

## Library of Congress

\*\*\*

NEW YORK Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Terry Roth Sam Schwartz

ADDRESS 47 West 69 Street 2800 Bronx Park East

DATE April 18, 1939

SUBJECT A Committee From The Right

1. Date and time of interview April 13 - 17, 1939
2. Place of interview Furriers Union
3. Name and address of informant Mrs. Cohen
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

Sam Schwartz

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

FOLKLORE

\*\*\*\*

## Library of Congress

NEW YORK

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

STATE New York

NAME OF ADDRESS Terry Roth Sam Schwartz

ADDRESS 47 West 69 Street 2800 Bronx Park East

DATE April 18, 1939

SUBJECT A Committee From The Right

That was in 1929, before we had the united front. We had two unions. One union was on thirty-first street—the right union. So the left wing, the workers that they were registered with the left union, they received letters to come over in the other union to be with them. So we understood what it is. Knives and clubs and everything. So we didn't go. But once the boss received a letter from the right union he should send over the workers to them. He gave me the letter. What I did with the letter is understood. I threw it away. Comes another letter. "If we won't be Friday there on thirty first Street, so on Monday morning we'll have a committee." We knew what a committee will be. It was already the work to the end, and of course we didn't go. Before I went home I told my boss. "Mr. Brenner, Monday morning I'll be in the shop eight o'clock." "What for, Mrs. Cohen, you know you are the first to work, and the cutter wouldn't even be there. I wouldn't even be ready for you the work."

"Here in your shop, Mr. Brenner, I'll have work. You know what means a committee for the left workers? Against the life of the workers."

"You mean gangsters?"

"Of course."

## Library of Congress

2

“Oi, Mrs. Cohen You mustn't come. I know you from long ago. You are a mother. If they'll beat you in the shop—”

“In my presense, if they'll lay a finger on the worker, I'll—”

“Mrs. Cohen, please don't go against the gangsters because they'll kill you. Think of your two children.”

“The union is my third child.”

and “Please, Mrs. Cohen,” and “Please.”

I told him. “I haven't got any tools, only my scissors. I'll bring my kitchen tools, a knife, a hammer, a rolling pin.”

In my house I told my husband if I won't come home he should look for me OR in the hospital, OR in Jail, or in morgue. So Monday morning Mr. Brenner called the right union up and told them he doesn't want any trouble in the shop. He wouldn't force them to go. Because Mrs. Cohen was in the shop. So they didn't come and the boss told the business agent that they got scared from the kitchen tools.