

DENNIS, RED LEADER, SILENT ON 'DUMPING'

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 — (UPI)—Eugene Dennis, veteran Communist party leader, refused today on constitutional grounds to tell Senate investigators whether he was marked for down-grading or "dumping" in a major reshuffling of the party this week.

He was one of two witnesses who balked at answering questions at a suddenly called hearing of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee. The other was Joseph North, foreign news editor of the party's newspaper, The Sunday Worker, who

was questioned about Communist influence in Cuba.

Both cited the First and Fifth Amendments to the Constitution.

Questions to Dennis, national secretary of the Communist party, concerned the national convention of the party to be held in New York Thursday.

J. G. Sourwine, the subcommittee, chief counsel, also asked Dennis if he were aware that Benjamin Davis, also a top party official, had called him "incompetent, a fence straddler" and a man who must be removed from the party's position of policy making.

Mr. Sourwine commented that Gus Hall, another key leader, had been drumming up support among members for a "dump Dennis" move.

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