

POST DEC 27 1948

Teacher's Letter Protesting Quiz Gives Clue to Her Suicide

A letter purportedly written by Mrs. Minnie Gutride, 40, public school teacher, after she was questioned on Communist activities and before she was found dead of gas poisoning, was released today by Local 555 of the CIO Teachers Union.

The letter was dated last Tuesday, the same day she was called from her classroom at P.S. 21, Staten Island, and questioned by Asst. Supt. of Schools Conroy and Nicholas Bucci, Board of Education law secretary. She was

found dead two days later in her home at 200 W. 16th St. Police listed the death as suicide.

The letter, addressed to Supt. of Schools Jansen, follows:

"Dear Sir, A shocking thing happened to me in school today. Shortly before my first year class was scheduled to go home, my principal sent for me. I was taken to the teachers' room, where my principal introduced me to Dr. Conroy, Mr. Bucci and a stenographer. In this terrifying atmosphere I was questioned for about 15 minutes.

"I had no inkling that anything like this was to take place. I was not told why I was being questioned. Instead, a reference by Dr. Conroy to this questioning as involving a 'legal matter which would be taken up in court' failed to bring any enlightenment, but sounded vaguely threatening.

"I have been teaching for 17 years, and I have a highly satisfactory record as a teacher. No fault has ever been found with my conduct, professional and personal. I know that there are legal procedures which protect a teacher on tenure.

"I wish to protest strongly this complete disregard for the safeguards which have been set up. I think it is highly unfair and improper to call a teacher out of class (1A, in this instance) and subject her to this type of questioning without any warn-

ing or prior notice or opportunity to consult with anyone for advice as to her legal rights."

Mrs. Rose V. Russell, the union's legislative representative who released the letter, said Mrs. Gutride had been in the union office last Tuesday afternoon and "was visibly shaken."

She protested the "virtual witch-hunting" by the Board of Education.

For Little Fellows With Big Colds...



Mother . . . the best-known home remedy you can use to relieve distress of his cold is warming, comforting Vicks VapoRub. If you rub it on at bedtime, it works even while the child sleeps! And often by morning the worst miseries of his cold are gone. Try it. Get the one and only Vicks VapoRub!