

Date 3/23/61

for violating a non-Communist oath he signed in 1955. The article further reflects that Kautt, when interviewed by a "Tribune" reporter in Senn High School, denied comments attributed to him and said the situation was "ridiculous." He said, "What I said I would be willing to repeat to the Superintendent of Schools, the President or to anybody." Kautt said he is a registered Republican voter, not a Communist and just a tourist who got involved in a situation. Kautt described himself as an average school teacher, not wealthy, and said he got a circular in the mail about the trip to Cuba for \$200.00. "On a teacher's salary I couldn't afford what it would normally cost. It was a tremendous opportunity to take this trip." Kautt considered the incident in Havana where McWillie took offense at something he was saying a misunderstanding.

The January 6, 1961, edition of the "Chicago Sun Times," a Chicago daily newspaper, on page 7, column 1, contained an article captioned "Teacher Who Got Punched Denies He Praised Castro." The article states that Chicago school teacher LaVerne E. Kautt denied Thursday that he praised Cuba's Fidel Castro or criticized the United States after a trip to the island. "I believe him," said Richard C. McVey, Assistant Superintendent in charge of school personnel. McVey said even if Kautt made the remarks attributed to him, he certainly could not take any action against him. He went to Cuba on a legitimate leave of absence and did not try to pass himself off falsely as a school representative. "It is not my intent to muzzle an individual's prerogative to freedom of speech." McVey said he learned that McWillie, the former manager of the Tropicana Night Club in Havana, had just had most of his assets confiscated by the Castro regime. "Under those circumstances, it is not too hard to understand why he might swing at anyone who said anything that might possibly be construed as favorable to Cuba."

LEWIS McWILLIE, 3651 Southwest 18th Terrace, Miami, Florida, advised that he is the former manager of the Tropicana Night Club in Havana, Cuba. He stated that when returning to the United States from Cuba and waiting at the Havana International Airport for his flight to Miami, he overheard an American talking to a group of men who apparently were Cuban newspaper correspondents. He stated that the American spoke in English and was denouncing "President EISENHOWER and American imperialism." He told the Cubans that all Americans thought about was the dollar and that in his opinion, the government of FIDEL CASTRO was the right kind of government. McWILLIE advised that this American was wearing the Fair Play for Cuba Committee badge and another badge indicating he was a guest of the Cuban Government which he took off before arriving in the United States. McWILLIE advised that he and this American both traveled to the United States aboard the same airplane and that when they arrived at Miami, McWILLIE went up to this man and said, "Why don't you make remarks you made in Havana?" McWILLIE stated the man then made a sudden movement and McWILLIE hit him. McWILLIE further stated that police officers at the airport asked this American whether he wanted to prefer charges against McWILLIE and he refused. McWILLIE stated that he did not know the name of this man, LA VERNE KAUTT, until he saw it in the newspapers.

On 3/22/61 at Miami, Florida File # 100-14601

by SA JOHN E. MOONE:ush Date dictated 3/23/61

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