

C.A.P. Probe To Last 2 Months

By A. W. MALDONADO

The House and Senate committees investigating the Christian Action Party registration and electoral campaigns revealed yesterday that the investigation is expected to extend about two months during which "over 1,000 witnesses" may be called.

House committee chairman Rep. Benjamin Ortiz said that among the witness to be cited will be Bayamon District Court Judge Maria Luisa Ramos who has been charged by the local Justice Department with "irregularities" in witnessing C.A.P. petitions found to be fraudulent by the Justice Department.

The committee, he said, will attempt to meet every weekday until the investigation is completed. A meeting is scheduled for today at 3 p. m.

Voluminous Evidence

The legislative attorneys conducting the investigation said yesterday that "very voluminous oral and documented evidence" will be presented to the committees in support of the legislative petition which ordered the investigation. The petition called for removal of Sen. Mario Davila and Rep. Luis Feliu Pesquera from the legislature charging that their election was based on "false, coercive, deceitful and corrupt actions" by the C.A.P.

Monday's stormy hearing saw Miss Iris Texidor del Olmo, secretary of the Dorado C.A.P. committee, refuse to answer questions. Rep. Ortiz said that as he had announced Monday, he is initiating contempt charges against her. He said that the transcript of the hearing will be

turned over to House Speaker Ernesto Ramos Antonini. The Justice Department will file the charge in the San Juan Superior Court.

Witnesses From Entire P. R.

Rep. Ortiz said witnesses from the entire island who claim that their signature and fingerprints had been falsified on C.A.P. registration petitions filed in the State Department will testify before his committee.

House examining attorney Lorenzo Lagarde and Senate examining attorney Francisco Torres Aquier both confirmed that the total number of witnesses cited "can be more than 1,000." They refused to state however how many of these will deal with alleged fraud in C.A.P. petitions.

Lagarde added that some of the witnesses will be called to testify on alleged "coercion and coercion" of voters in Puerto Rico by the C.A.P. during the electoral campaign. This will deal with the use of religious symbols and holy sacraments in the electoral campaign.

Lagarde was asked if he intended to summon before the committee the Catholic bishops who signed two pastoral letters prohibiting Catholics from voting for the Popular Party.

Question Never Asked

"You did not ask that question," Lagarde snapped. He was asked if his answer to it was "no comment." Lagarde repeated that as far as he was concerned the question was never asked.

Senate attorney Torres said
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that the House and Senate committees will hold joint public hearings to hear all testimony.

Rep. Ortiz said that cited for today's hearing is Eufemia Barea whose name appears as countersigner in a number of C.A.P. petitions which have been found to be fraudulent by the Justice Department. Also summoned to the hearing are the citizens who claim that they never signed those petitions on which their names appear.

Mrs. Barea is expected to refuse to answer all questions asked her concerning the C.A.P. registration drive. Her actions will follow the stated C.A.P. tactic of insisting that the committee does not have jurisdiction to probe the C.A.P. registration.