

# PEORIA LEGION POST CHARTER REVOKED IN ROW

## Commander Accused of Communist Acts

BY THOMAS MORROW

The charter of the Roy B. Tisdell post of the American Legion, an all-Negro group in Peoria, was revoked yesterday by order of William G. Kleuskens, state commander. He asserted that C. A. Hazelwood, commander of the post, "has participated in activities demonstrating his association with those engaged in" disseminating communistic ideologies.

The matter will be placed before the Illinois Legion executive committee, which opens the state convention with a meeting tonight in the Morrison hotel. If Kleuskens is upheld, the revocation will be made permanent but will not become effective until a court martial trial has been held.

### Reelected by One Vote

If Kleuskens is not upheld, the post will be reinstated. Hazelwood, reelected commander of the 113 member post by a 29 to 28 vote last Thursday, said he will appear in person or be represented by an attorney.

"I am not a communist," said Hazelwood. "I know nothing about communism and I want the world to know it. I was gassed in the first world war. I know the American Ideals. How could I be a communist?"

Kleuskens said the suspension grew out of the incident in which Paul Robeson, the singer, was denied use of a Peoria hall on April 19 after he was named by the house committee on un-American activities as one of a group "invariably found supporting the communist party and its front organizations."

### Kleuskens Bares Charge

A second Peoria post was instrumental in barring Robeson, Kleuskens said, and the Tisdell post and Hazelwood took issue with the other Legion organization.

Hazelwood denied this and said that he acted as vice president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He asserted that he made a statement that he was not acting as a Legion official at the time.

Kleuskens said the post failed to follow the Legion program.

Kleuskens appointed Robert Burhans, Peoria attorney, and N. Curtis Catton, vice president of the Central National bank of Peoria and a former state Legion commander, as trustees of the property of Tisdell post for the duration of the revocation.