

We Smell a Rat, and It Isn't Only Kent

THE case of Arthur Kent, alias Arthur Scott, alias (by the grace of an ingenious headline writer) Robin Hood would be the occasion for a hearty laugh, that's all, did it not have such grave implications.

Mr. Scott-Kent-Hood is the man who ransacked Hollywood homes and claims to have turned the money over to the Communist Party. Moreover he has named other people as "accomplices" including Tom Johnson, business manager of the CIO's Industrial Unionist in Los Angeles.

This great philanthropist who allegedly gave his takings to the Communist Party, has retained as defense counsel the most rabid Communist-hating attorney in the State, one Aaron Sapiro! Anyone who would touch Sapiro with a ten-foot pole is as far removed from Communism as is the most virulent red baiter.

But it is so easy to blast this attempt to implicate the Communist Party, that were the Party alone involved it would matter little. This clumsy frame-up, however, is being used by the reactionary Los Angeles Press to smear the labor movement in general and the CIO in particular.

If that was not the frame-up's purpose, why was Johnson dragged in? Why did the arrest and "confession" coincide with the general offensive of the Los Angeles open-shoppers against unionism? Why did it follow one week after the formation of the vigilante "Southern Californians, Inc."? Is the California ruling class, which has gained world-wide notoriety for its frame-up methods pulling another out of its sleeve as a Christmas gift to labor?
