WASHINGTON, Sept. 4 (UPI)—The leader of an unauthorized trip to Cuba by 84 young Americans acknowledged today that he had cheered a film scene of a United States plane being shot down in Vietnam.

Edward Lemansky, 24 years old, testifying before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, was interrupted as he attempted to explain his reasons.

He later told a reporter that he was not cheering at the death of the pilot but because “it meant the war was coming closer to an end.”

“...The sooner the American Government loses the war,” he said, “the sooner peace will come.”

Alfred M. Nittle, the committee’s counsel, had asked Mr. Lemansky whether he cheered while he and the other Americans watched the film during the visit to Cuba as guests of the Government headed by Fidel Castro.

Ichord Bangs Gavel

Mr. Lemansky began to tell why he opposed United States participation in the Vietnamese fighting. Representative Richard H. Ichord, Democrat of Missouri, who was presiding and who had previously told Mr. Lemansky that he was “growing increasingly impatient” with his “harangues,” banged his gavel and directed Mr. Nittle to ask the next question.

Mr. Lemansky, an avowed member of the Progressive Labor Movement, repeatedly criticized the committee and twice invoked the Fifth Amendment on the grounds of possible self-incrimination. He described the Progressive Labor Movement as “part of the Communist movement.”

While Mr. Ichord gaveled Mr. Lemansky to order time and again, George Lincoln Rockwell and two members of his American Nazi party sat in the audience under heavy police guard.

There was no repetition today of the physical violence that marred the subcommittee’s first hearing yesterday, when a Nazi attacked a witness.

U. S. Marshals Present

Three United States marshals sat facing the audience to block any attack similar to the one Lon L. Dunaway, of Arlington, Va., made on Morton B. Slater, a student witness.

The Nazi attacker was bound over under $1,000 bond today for jury trial Sept. 21 on charges of simple assault and disorderly conduct.

Ira Gollobin of New York, counsel for Mr. Lemansky and Mr. Slater, protested the presence of the Nazis. But Mr. Ichord said that anyone was free to attend the public session.

Mr. Lemansky began testifying by telling the committee he did not consider himself obligated to answer any questions.

He charged that the panel was unconstitutional in its creation and its operation, that some of its members were illegally elected and that it attacked Communism as alien while regarding Nazism as “home-grown.”

When asked his name, Mr. Lemansky replied that the subcommittee had investigated him enough to know it already.

During questioning about who had selected him to lead the Cuba tour, Mr. Lemansky asked whether the legislators understood Yiddish.

“There’s a Yiddish word ‘chutzpah,”’ he said. “Asking me to give names of the people who organized this group is a lot of chutzpah.”

Broadly translated, “chutzpah” means “a lot of nerve.”