

Lobby Still Uses Lundeen's Name

By NATHAN ROBERTSON and WELDON JAMES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3.— One of the loudest organizations lobbying against the national defense program in Congress has been operating under a false front for more than four months and still is clinging to the name of a dead Senator to give it face.



Who really founded it is a mystery. Who donates the thousands of dollars it spends in fighting the defense program is a greater mystery.

The organization, like some others engaged in the same activity, is more than a little ghostly. But you can put a journalistic finger on this much of it: Its present title is The Islands for War Debts Defense Committee, and its "national secretary" is a local publicist named Prescott Dennett, who also runs a variety of publicity and newspaper activities of a promotional type.

False-front of the organization for months past was the late Senator Ernest Lundeen of Minnesota, described by the "Committee" even the day after his death in an airplane crash last Saturday as "Founder and National Chairman." *But two days before the crash Senator Lundeen disclaimed responsibility for organizing the committee, told a PM reporter he had resigned as national chairman last May 1, no longer had any connection whatever with the outfit.* He did say he was in sympathy with its work.

Brookhart Explains

Not so, however, with a possibly more legitimate ornament on the committee's "front"—former Senator Smith W. Brookhart, of Iowa, correctly described by the organization as one of its vice-chairmen. He told PM he had permitted his name to be used because of friendship for Mr. Lundeen, but said he did not agree with much of the literature the committee has put out lately.

"My sympathy," Mr. Brookhart said, "is all with England. I want to clean Hitler up and would exchange our over-age destroyers for the island possessions in this hemisphere." He said he had never contributed a cent to the organization and did not know how it was financed.

Two days before his death, Senator Lundeen, in disclaiming responsibility for organizing the committee, refused to answer questions about its genesis.

The day after his death, PM received a 170-word telegram pledging the committee "to fight on for his pro-American precepts, guided by the inspiration of his leadership based on principles expounded by Washington, Monroe and Jackson."

Randolph Quits

Another erstwhile legitimate ornament on the organization's "front," Representative Jennings Randolph (D., W. Va.), when told of the committee's attack on PM for criticizing Col. Lindbergh, and when informed of its other recent activities, announced he was resigning immediately.

"I'm a critic of Lindbergh, too," he said. "You can say I have withdrawn today. I'm pro-British. I've never seen their releases, but I gave them permission to use my name because I am the author of legislation providing for the acquisition of European-owned islands in the West Indies and I understood that was what they were for."

Mr. Randolph added that he knew little about the committee, but had permitted his name to be used because Senator Lundeen had sponsored it.