

(From Equality, March 1940, pp. 34-35)

THE DIES COMMITTEE AND ANTI-SEMITISM, by Harold Coy. The overly affectionate Pelley and one of leading Jew-haters to seek platform there; Is it not high time to recognize such rackets as subversive and ask why they aren't investigated?

"I admit very freely that I am anti-Semitic. I feel exactly as the Nazi Party in Germany in regard to our Jewish population."

With these words Willaim Dudley Pelley, Silver Shirt leader, scoundrel, law-breaker, and racial agitator, came out of "hiding" to testify before the Dies Committee. The occasion for his testimony was the famous Mayne letters which linked Pelley and Congressman Dies, and which were placed in the Congressional Record by Congressman Hook. In testifying that the letters were forgeries, Pelley added the following to his defense of the Dies Committee:

"If the Dies group continues its work the Silver Shirt Legion will close up. And with my blessings."

Furore over the Mayne letters has tended to divert attention from more fundamental aspects of Congressman Hook's criticism of the Dies Committee. The famous letter and the forgery issue they raise may be summarized with this: Mayne has been an employee of both Pelley and the Dies Committee. At the time he was engaged in selling the letters, he was also having conferences with Rhea Whitley, former Dies Committee counsel. Either then or later he became exceedingly interested in embarrassing Gardner Jackson and his associate (who transmitted the letters to Congressman Hook). But the truth or falsity of the letters, and the motives which prompted Mayne, are less important questions than this: What has been the

relation of the Dies Committee with the fomenters of anti-Semitism?
 Furthermore (and the Pelley testimony brings the matter to a head):
 Why has the Dies committee done nothing effective to expose the activities
 of the anti-Semites?"

Some Pertinent Questions

Decent people, both Jews and Gentiles, have begun to ask these questions. Congressman Hook's charges in Congress are merely an expression of them.

Why is it that the Dies Committee has never investigated the activities of Father Coughlin? Is the fomenting of racial hatred not subversive? And why, on the contrary, did Father Coughlin, the leading anti-Semite in America, agitate in the pages of Social Justice a short time ago for Martin Dies to be made President of the United States? Surely this is a question that reasonable citizens may reasonably ask?

Why did the Dies Committee not investigate the Christian Front, whose activities were notorious long before the recent arrests? Why, on the contrary, has Father Curran of the Brooklyn Tablet, an anti-Semitic newspaper-defender of the Christian Front- taken occasion to praise Congressman Dies? Why are Father Curran, Father Coughlin, and the other teachers of the Christian Front terrorists not under investigation for subversive activities? Why, finally, did Congressman Thomas of the Dies Committee praise the Brooklyn Tablet officially, inserting into the record, "It is my belief that the Tablet does a good job"?

It becomes the duty of those ~~interested~~ sincerely interested in tolerance to begin to speak out on these matters. They begin to be seen as the end of a long chain of events which point more and more

to the hard fact that apparently Congressman Dies is not interested in investigating certain kinds of subversive activities, namely those dealing with anti-Jewish agitation.

Moseley Gets Forum

Readers will recall that about eight months ago General Van Horn Moseley, the fanatical crackpot and anti-Semite, was on the stand for several days before the Dies Committee. He was given a free forum, his vile attacks upon the Jewish people were not answered or repudiated by the committee, and on the contrary, some of his speeches were inserted into the record in full. George W. Deatherage, head of the Knights of the White Camelia, was given the same opportunity. When Henry D. Allen was on the stand, this was the manner in which ~~his~~ his testimony was handled. We quote from the record:

Congressman Mason asked why it was necessary to "get rid of all the Jews from the Federal government departments and so forth."

Mr. Allen: Because many of us believe that Jews in the Federal government are wrecking the country.

Mr. Mason: Are wrecking the country because you feel they are communistically inclined?

Mr. Allen: Not necessarily; no.

Mr. Mason: But you feel that, regardless they are ~~Jews~~ Communists, or not, if they have an active part in the official life of the government that they will wreck the government?

Mr. Allen: We can see in the Jews in the present government, in the Roosevelt administration, the carrying out of the Protocol plan, if you know what this is.

Mr. Mason: Of course, I have heard what that is (our italics) but I know personally many Jewish people not only in the Federal government but in the local and state governments that make excellent

officials, and they are certainly not wrecking the government.

Mr. Allen: The exception probably proves the rule.

The Chairman: That is the question that neither this committee or any other committee can ever solve with respect to the Jewish race. (Our italics.)

The Committee then adjourned.

Notice: there was not a line of contradiction from the Committee to this testimony, not a word on the record saying that the Protocols were proven forgeries. There was even implied agreement with the witness's attitude by the statement that it brought up questions about the Jews that couldn't be answered.

And who is Allen? Allen is a fascist who admitted that he had been arrested in California for the possession of a weapon, the "kike killer", manufactured by James ~~XXX~~ True. True is a notorious anti-Semite, and the Dies Committee has not investigated him either.

Kiss of Death?

It begins to seem, surely, ~~that~~ as though democratically minded people may well begin to attach significance to the fact that Pelley blessed the Dies Committee. What are the activities of a committee, that ~~x~~ the subversive elements they are supposed to investigate bless them? Pelley stated his aims to be these: to imprison for life such persons as Senator La Follette, John L. Lewis and Congressman Dickstein. Why is he willing to "close up his organization" if the Dies Committee will only continue the work he blesses?

No, Congressman Hook did more than present the Pelley letters to Congress. He charged that Dies has associated publicly with anti-Semites and spoken at meetings sponsored by anti-Semitic organizations. He named

names-Merwin K. Hart; Robert Appleton, associate of Joe McWilliams of the ~~Christian~~ Christian Mobilizers: Fritz Kuhn, James Wheeler-Hill, James True, and a host of others. These charges have so far not been denied or disproved. Equality has made similar charges and has similarly named names, stated occasions, and demanded explanations. These have been no explanations or denials forthcoming.

This is serious. It is a matter that cannot be overlooked. It is beginning to become a brazen disgrace! Is Congressman Dies an anti-Semite or is he not? Why has he protected them? Why is he not ~~now~~ investigating them now?