

Headline from Social Justice, December 11, 1939.

HOW ABOUT MR. DIES?

Social Justice, while not "in politics," has frequently canvassed possibilities for the successor to Mr. Roosevelt and his New Deal. It has seemed to us that the country at the moment has a wider range of worthy young aspirants than has been the case in many a campaign year, as well as its roster of seasoned older statesmen whose record and years of service qualify them for consideration.

In recent days there has come forward into prominence a vigorous young American whose name, so far as we know has not entered the lists. So far as we know, also the idea may not even have occurred to himself.

In the event that Mr. Roosevelt will not be a candidate to succeed himself for an unprecedented third term--and there is more and more emphatic assurances from his close friends that he will not--we believe that many Americans are quietly talking about what a fine President the country would have in Mr. Martin Dies, the Congressman from Texas.

Mr. Dies, as chairman of the Committee to investigate un-American activities, has made an excellent record. Against the abuse and villification from every powerful subversive interest upon which his investigators have turned the light, Mr. Dies and his committee have gone on with their fight for clean Americanism. They have even battled with their own colleagues for funds with which to complete their task.

Despite charges of partiality and bias, it seems to us that Mr. Dies, and the investigating committee directed by him, have done a splendid job of exposing all of the un-American "isms" -- Communism, Naziism, Fascism and their "fellow-travelers."

Mr. Dies' address over the radio the other evening, commented upon elsewhere in this edition, and all too inadequately reported by the newspapers, was a masterpiece. It was, moreover, one of the boldest indictments we have ever heard from a layman. This struggle, said Mr. Dies, is at base a contest between Christ and anti-Christ. The investigations of his committee, Mr. Dies told his audience, have convinced him that both Communism and Naziism are directed by the same atheistic powers opposed to the teachings of Christianity.

Certainly that was not the utterance of a politician seeking public office. It was, we believe, the brave statement of an honest American with the courage to reveal convictions based upon long and fearless investigation of evil forces. This Texas Democrat, what's more, has a clean personal record. So we say--why not consider Martin Dies?