

HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood Urges Red Probe by U. S.

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HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 16.—An invitation for a governmental investigation of charges that motion picture personalities were participating in communistic activities was issued tonight by Y. Frank Freeman, president of the Motion Picture Producers Association. At the same time the Screen Actors Guild

declared District Attorney Buron Fitts was conducting a "smear campaign."

Mr. Freeman's invitation followed the arrival in Los Angeles of Representative Dies, chairman of the Committee for the Investigation of Un-American Activities, who is here for a two-day inquiry on fifth columns.

Declaring that the 32,000 workers in the motion picture colony were unwilling to "yield to anyone in their true Americanism," Mr. Freeman said there would be no attempt to "protect any group of individuals" if an investigation revealed they had brought discredit on the industry. He asked that public decision be withheld until a complete and impartial investigation had been made.

Holding that "the present smear campaign against prominent actors is playing squarely into the hands of the real fifth columnists," the Screen Actors Guild announcement stated that its members "hate Nazi-ism, Commu-

nism and fifth columnists." The statement then takes to task Mr. Fitts for making public the testimony of John Leech, former Communist leader. Mr. Leech is described in the statement as a "professional witness" who has been discredited.

Since publication of the Leech testimony, it was learned, the district attorney's office has been furnished with other instances of communistic activities in Hollywood. Several statements were said to have been taken from prospective witnesses this afternoon.