

## INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE

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### THE MILLS SPEED UP--IN CONGRESS AND IN THE STATES

The latest proposal of the Dies Committee, the most audacious so far, has escaped the general publicity which it deserves--and which is needed to defeat it. The proposal is to turn the Dies Committee into what would amount to a standing committee of the House, no less, with priority of jurisdiction over all particularly repressive measures. To grasp the full significance of this, it is necessary to explain something about the workings of the House of Representatives.

Under the rules of the House, when bills are introduced, they are referred to standing committees for consideration. For example, those dealing with Immigration and Naturalization are referred to that committee; those on labor questions to the Labor Committee; on postal questions to the Post Office and Post Roads Committee, etc. On any one of these committees there may be a few members opposed to any particular piece of legislation, or who, because of the feeling and temper of their constituents, might at least press for public hearings in the committee or by a sub-committee. If the committee reports favorably, then the measure goes to the Rules Committee, which decides (in practice if not in theory) when the bill is to be debated, and how long the debate will be.

Under the proposal of the Dies Committee, if it is adopted by the House, all bills dealing with the broad subject of what Dies calls "un-American activities" would be taken away from the labor, judiciary, immigration, post-office, etc., committees, and given to the Dies Committee for consideration. The Dies Committee would put on its typical un-American show in carefully controlled hearings which would bar opposition to repressive measures. Then it would be able to issue flaming reports recommending passage, with the same sort of pressure behind them that has been put on members of the House to support the Dies Committee itself. The power of the Dies Committee would be second only to that of the Rules Committee--of which all the members are close friends of the Dies Committee with one possible exception.

Under this proposal, most of the anti-Bill of Rights legislation discussed in the I. L. D. letter would come directly under the jurisdiction of the Dies Committee. YOUR CONGRESSMAN should know what YOU think of the idea of letting Poll-Tax Congressman Dies run the House.