

# ACTION

September 27, 1941

**NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR  
CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES**

**LETTER**

**1410 H Street, N. W. - Washington, D. C.**

SUBJECT: Movie "Investigation" Launches Anti-Semitism, Screen Censorship.

THE "INVESTIGATION": Early in September a resolution calling for an investigation of the movie industry was introduced by Senators Gerald P. Nye and Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri. Senator Wheeler, Chairman of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee immediately picked a sub-committee of administration opponents to consider the resolution.

The investigation began on September 9. It became clear at the outset that the hearings were to be used as the occasion for an attack on the Jewish people and the foreign born, and to obstruct the production of further anti-Nazi films. Senator Nye said: "Were I determined to name those primarily responsible for propaganda in the moving picture industry, I would confine myself to four names, each one that of the Jewish faith, each one of them foreign born." Thus resorting to anti-Semitism, the Senators involved are adopting Hitler's own tactic, which has led to the total destruction of civil liberties wherever it has been used. Urging the falsehood that opposition to Nazism stems only from the Jewish people, they seek to deny the fact that the whole American people are overwhelmingly opposed to Hitlerism. They attempt to prevent the expression of anti-Hitler feeling in this country and to disunite the people in their opposition to Hitlerism. They continue the activities of the Dies Committee which also conducted a smearing, anti-Semitic campaign against those producing anti-Nazi films.

Louis Bromfield, recalling the frequent use of such "investigations" by the Nazis during the softening-up period in Germany prior to 1933, said of the movie investigation: "The whole proceeding in Washington has an old, familiar ring to those of us who saw the rise of Nazism in Germany."

BEHIND THE "INVESTIGATION": One of the favorite Nazi devices in dealing with weaker countries has been to require them to bar "hostile" propaganda in radio, press, and films. For years the Axis has obstructed the production of anti-fascist films in the U.S. by threatening to cut off foreign markets economically vital to the film industry. Since the passing of the European market, new methods are being attempted.

A few years ago, after a period of unemployment, Russell Mack (real name Mahoney) a Hollywood movie writer, went to Germany. Subsequently he was giving money to G. Allison Phelps, Hollywood anti-Semite who broadcasts daily over KGER. Phelps is the author of an anti-Semitic book attacking the movie industry, which was praised by Coughlin's Social Justice. He recently made it clear that the present movie investigation is his work. During this summer he came to Washington and made the office of Senator Reynolds (anti-Semitic fuhrer of Vindicators, native fascist movement) his headquarters. When he returned, he boasted over the air: "I have been furnishing some of the Senators with material they want. I am certain of this because they told me so. If you could see the ammunition for certain future work that I have prepared and

**"THE WAY TO KEEP FREE SPEECH IS TO SPEAK"**

which is now resting safely in the private files of a certain U.S. Senator...you would know that I really did some work while I was in Washington...."

SPREADING ANTI-SEMITISM: Two days after the investigation opened in Washington, Charles Lindbergh made an open attack upon the Jewish people in his speech at Des Moines. Almost immediately, anti-Semitic publications all over the country seized the opportunity to use Nye and the "investigation" to give validity and respectability to their rabid Nazi race hatred.

MINIMUM ACTION:

1. WIRE OR WRITE TO VICE PRESIDENT HENRY A. WALLACE, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. AND YOUR OWN SENATORS. URGE THAT THE SENATE REPUDIATE THE MOVIE INVESTIGATION AND IMMEDIATELY TERMINATE ITS ACTIVITIES. POINT OUT THAT THE INVESTIGATION IS AN ATTACK UPON CIVIL LIBERTIES THROUGH CENSORSHIP, RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY, AND ALIEN BAITING, AND THAT IT REPRESENTS AN ATTEMPT THROUGH THESE METHODS TO SOW DISUNITY AMONG THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
2. BE SURE TO SEND COPIES OF YOUR COMMUNICATIONS TO THE FEDERATION.

FURTHER ACTION:

1. Have the enclosed resolution taken up in your organization. Send copies of the resolution to other organizations in your area. Send us the names of organizations which adopt the resolution so that we may use the information here in Washington.
2. Visit the editors of newspapers in your community and urge that they oppose the investigation editorially. Use the public letter columns to express condemnation of the investigation.
3. Organize individual wires and letters through a telephone campaign, a mailing to your contacts, and soliciting of individual communications from the members of organizations adopting the resolution.
4. RAISE FUNDS. APPEAL FOR FINANCES TO CARRY ON THIS CAMPAIGN FOR FREEDOM FROM CENSORSHIP AND AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM. REQUEST DONATIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND FROM INDIVIDUALS AND SEND THE FUNDS TO THE FEDERATION. MAKE THIS AN URGENT PART OF YOUR ACTIVITIES.

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Federation Requests Hearing:

We have just been informed that the Federation will be accorded an opportunity to appear at the committee hearings to present its position on this dangerous use of a Senate sub-committee to suppress free expression and to arouse racial and religious intolerance. The Federation has released a statement to the press.

RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS:** The investigation of the movie industry by a small group of administration opponents serving as a sub-committee of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee constitutes an effort, by the use of anti-Semitism and alien-baiting, to censor anti-Nazi films; and

**WHEREAS:** Axis friends are attempting to use this investigation to suppress anti-fascist films, just as Berlin, Rome and Tokyo formerly did through the direct threat of cutting off vital foreign markets; and

**WHEREAS:** These friends of Hitler are urging the falsehood that opposition to Nazism stems from the Jewish people, and are seeking to deny the fact that the whole American people are overwhelmingly opposed to Hitlerism; and

**WHEREAS:** Nazi sympathizers are utilizing the investigation to give validity and respectability to their activities, picking up and broadcasting throughout the country incitements and hatreds against the Jews and the foreign born; and

**WHEREAS:** The investigation is being carried on with a shocking misuse of power to stifle the opposition to fascism in this country and to disunite the people in their opposition to Hitlerism; and

**WHEREAS:** This Senate sub-committee is carrying forward the work of the Dies Committee which also conducted an anti-Semitic, smear campaign against those producing anti-Nazi movies; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That this organization denounces the investigation of the movie industry and the anti-Semitic, anti-alien attacks which characterize it; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That we urge the Senate to repudiate the Committee carrying on the investigation, and to immediately terminate its activities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That copies of this resolution be sent to Vice-President Henry A. Wallace, to members of the Senate from this state, and to Senator Burton K. Wheeler, all at the Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.

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PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN  
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The resolution on the anti-Semitic investigation of the movie industry was adopted by:  
ORGANIZATION . . . . .  
ADDRESS . . . . .  
CITY & STATE . . . . .  
NAME OF OFFICER . . . . .  
DATE . . . . . VOTES FOR . . . . . VOTES AGAINST . . . . .

Mail to:  
NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES  
1410 H Street, NW Washington, DC