

Chronological summary of official ACLU actions relating to the Dies Committee:

(9-2-39, Bulletin 32): Request for hearing to be had in a telegram signed by Hays.

(9-12-38 Minutes): Noted Hays request to appear before the Committee on behalf of the ACLU and answer charges made by Dies in broadcast of 8-20-38.

(11-28-38, Item 7): Agreed to attack Committee proceedings and chairman's conduct in an open letter which Hays sent. (See following two items.)

12-12-39 Minutes, Item 4): Hays had sent open letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives attacking the procedure and bias of the Dies Committee.

(12-12-38, Special Release on Dies Committee): Called conduct of Committee "public scandal" and said that the Committee had "perverted its commission from Congress." It also criticized the "loose and unprincipled manner in which the investigation has been ~~xxx~~ pursued."

(Copy from 12-12-39 - 2nd and last paragraphs, out of document).

Note: Also the ACLU affidavit was printed in volume 4 of the Committee's hearings which contain the last of the 1938 hearings, recently Rep. James Parnell Thomas has ignored this affidavit and has attacked the ACLU as a Communist front organization.

(1-16-39 Minutes, Item 4): Authorizes a committee of three to carry on fight against the continuation of the Dies Committee.

(1-21-39, Bulletin 852): States ACLU opposed to further appropriation because of the Committee's "prejudices, unjudicial conduct and irresponsibility."

(1-24-39 - a Speech by Roger N Baldwin over the Red network of the NBC): Baldwin said that in three volumes "hardly a word appears concerning the Silver Shirts, the Black Legion, and the K.K.K, ~~and~~ or those so-called vigilantes which have arisen so menacingly in almost every great strike to serve the interests of employers against the interest of law and order." He ~~farth~~ said further "Every Tory agency in the country has been stirred to demand its continuance by the prospect of a two-year field day against their progressive opponents." (Get additional quotes marked by AIJ.)

(2-8-39 - check on this). Annual meeting; members of National Committee present). Resolution adopted saying in part "We express our profound regret that the House of Representatives has seen fit to put the seal of its approval upon so unfair an inquiry as that conducted under the auspices of Rep. Martin Dies. We shall follow with great care the further inquiries by this Committee with a view to counteracting its adverse effects upon civil rights.

(3-22-39 Minutes, Item 12): Letter protesting charges and rumors before witnesses are called to testify.

(3-39 Civil Liberties Quarterly): Indications are that the methods of investigation will be somewhat less injudicious and more flamboyant *** "Members of the Committee have agreed not to make public addresses during the period of investigation."

(4-1-39, Bulletin 862) Commenting on "Secret Armies" by John Spivak the bulletin states "The book renders a service in revealing that the Dies Committee refused to question a number of suspected Nazi agents."

(4-15-39, Bulletin 864): Protests the employment of J B Matthews as an expert and failure to select expert to study fascist and anti-Semitic groups. Release says the good faith of the Committee is compromised by the employment of ~~an~~ a technical expert "as biased as Mr. Matthews obviously is."

(5-27-39, Bulletin 870): Letter protesting the use of income tax returns by the Dies Committee was signed by Ward, Hays and Baldwin.

(8-26-39, Bulletin 883): Hays by wire repeated "Our year-old request" to be heard.

(9-11-39 Minutes, Item 8): Again demanded hearing.

(9-16-39, Bulletin 886): "On four previous occasions we demanded an opportunity to be heard****. Neither Mr. Dues nor Mr. Whitley had "indicated when, if ever, the Union's representatives may be called to testify."

(10-2-39, Item 3): ACLU was promised a hearing at the "earliest opportunity" by the Dies Committee.

(10-16-39, "National Emergency statement"): (Copy items 3 and 4).

(10-25-39 Minutes, Item 4): Baldwin reported "Continued efforts are being made to obtain a hearing."

(11-6-39 Hays Letter): Re American League for Peace and Democracy list publication by Dies Committee. See also Bulletin 894 dated November 11, 1939 where the Committee was called "an attack on civil rights." This statement was made "after exhaustive study."

(Summary: Make reference here to two affidavits showing illegality of seizure of Washington and Chicago records.)