

children and everybody else in England.

SHOTGUN PUBLICITY

Several questions are raised by the action of the Dies committee in making public a list of 563 names of Federal employes who it alleges are members of the American League for Peace and Democracy—or at least either members or persons on the league's mailing list, for the committee itself seems unable to agree upon what the list includes. Among these questions are: Is the league really a "Communist front" organization? Have all the members been aware of its Communist nature or affiliations? Does it necessarily indicate anything about a person's own affiliations that he is on the mailing list of the league? It is important that such questions be answered separately.

That the league is essentially a "Communist front" organization does not admit of much doubt. Dr. Harry F. Ward, general secretary of the league, testified this week before the Dies committee that the Communist party has been contributing between \$2,000 and \$3,000 a year to the support of the league, that no other affiliated organization paid its "dues" in full but the Communist party, and that, though the league's dues program has been dropped, the Communist party has continued to contribute.

But have all the members of the American League for Peace and Democracy been aware of its Communist affiliations? This is doubtful. Even J. B. Matthews, now acting as counsel for the Dies committee, testified on Aug. 20, 1938, before the committee that when he asked prominent persons to become members of various Communist front organizations these persons "would sign without any knowledge at all as to the real character or mission of the organization they were identifying themselves with."

Finally, it must be obvious that to publish the names of persons who are merely on the mailing list of an organization is simply silly. Like business firms that advertise by mail, the league was free to put any name it chose on its mailing list without consulting the person concerned. Even a man opposed to an organization may ask to be put on its mailing list to learn what it is up to, and what doctrines it is disseminating.

To make names public in this wholesale and indiscriminate manner, with the implication that all the persons listed somehow bear the Communist taint, reflects not so much on the persons named as on the Dies committee itself.

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