

# Dies Asks Murphy to Prosecute Peace League

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## Attorney General Calls Witch-Hunt Committee 'Educational'

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(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 26.—  
Rep. Martin Dies tonight took one  
of the most far-reaching steps in  
whipping up a war hysteria yet un-  
dertaken by his committee.

In a lengthy letter to Attorney  
General Frank Murphy, Dies de-  
manded that the Department of  
Justice prosecute the American  
League for Peace and Democracy as  
"an agency of a foreign principle."

He made the unprecedented and  
unfounded charge that the League  
was violating the law requiring for-  
eign agents to register with the  
Justice Department.

Rep. Dies specifically asked that  
Murphy proceed under the "limited  
national emergency" existing as a  
result of the war situation which  
was proclaimed by the President.

Dr. Harry F. Ward, chairman of  
the League, categorically denied be-  
fore the committee earlier this week

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# Dies Urges Murphy to Hound Peace League

## Attorney General Calls Witch-Hunt Committee 'Educational'; Disclaims Intentions of Repeating Palmer Raids

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that the organization is any way affiliated with the Communist Party although he stated that some Communists are members.

The sweeping step demanded by Dies against this great liberal organization was by far the most drastic and repressive proposal which has yet emanated from the witch-hunting committee.

Dies signed the letter to Murphy as chairman of the committee, but carefully used the first person throughout. At one point the type-written copy of his letter received by this correspondent was crossed out and the words "my fullest cooperation" were substituted for "the fullest cooperation of the committee."

Reactions of individual members of the committee were not available late tonight, but it seemed likely that the majority of the witch-hunt committee would go along with the chairman.

### PROTEST GROWS

Other developments in connection with the Dies Committee's drive against civil liberties were the following:

1—The strong protest of liberal Congressmen yesterday against the publication of the names of members of the American League for Peace and democracy received considerably support, and the committee's action was received favorably in most government circles.

2—At the same time, statements by Attorney General Frank Murphy at his afternoon press conference indicated that the Department of Justice was increasing cooperation with the witch-hunt.

Officials in most Government departments declined to comment publicly, but made it plain in all cases that they intended to take no action against employes who were in the League list.

Typical of the general reaction was the comment of a personnel officer at the Labor Department who said:

"What could we do about it if we wanted to? They're all American citizens."

### CONSERVATIVE SHEET OBJECTS

One indication of the wide-spread indignation against the committee's action was sharply worded editorial in the conservative Washington Post.

"It is certainly no crime, in the democracy, for a citizen to belong to an organization which does not contravene the law. It is neither a crime nor a misdemeanor to join such an organization. Nor is there any disgrace in being openly identified with it." The Post declared:

"Under the circumstances," the editorial said, "it is difficult not to agree with Congressman Dempsey that the primary purpose of publishing the list is to 'smear' a number of Government employes who, using their own judgment of the nature and purpose of the League, refused to quit it as a result of the committee's ukase."

In common with other government officials, Murphy emphasized at his press conference this afternoon that punitive steps against members of the American League in Washington were not being planned.

"Membership in an organization doesn't protect a person and entitle him to raise the false cry of abrogation of civil liberties."

Murphy did admit, however, that this case which was suddenly brought up had been known to the Department for "some time." Browder had pointed out that it was old stuff back in the days of the Hoover Administration.

"Where these people have been contemptuous of the laws of the United States and where the security of the nation is involved, we cannot be lax," he declared.

Several times during his press conference, the Attorney General praised the Dies Committee for being "very helpful," he added that the committee was primarily "educational."

He said that two representatives of the department had been sent down to confer with Dies, and that arrangements had been made for the department to use Dies Committee material in prosecution.

Murphy repeated that the Department of Justice would be careful not to violate civil liberties. These, however, hardly stood up in view of the recent activities of the department.

"The Department of Justice does not participate in brass band raids," he said.

Asked whether this referred to the Dies Committee's raids, Murphy said:

"No, I didn't. I referred to the great raids of 1920."

Despite this disavowal of a repetition of the Palmer fed raids, J. Edgar Hoover, one of Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer's most active assistants in those days, remains head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation under Murphy.

As a matter of fact, towards the close of the press conference, Murphy warmly commended Hoover for his work during the last few weeks in setting up a system allegedly designed to protect American industrial plants producing war materials against alleged sabotage.

"It's a great job he's done," Murphy said.

### PROBE BUND'S ARMS TRAFFIC

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (UP).—Attorney General Frank Murphy today said the Justice Department had found some evidence that certain members of the German-American Bund were engaged in the illegal transportation of arms in the United States. These alleged violations, he said, were "not large."

Murphy said an investigation into Bund leader Fritz Kuhn's activities had been going on since April. He said the Department was "anxious to avoid doing any injustice" and therefore was proceeding slowly and carefully.

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Other statements which he made, however, indicated that the Department of Justice is now working in cahoots with the Dies Committee in whipping up a war hysteria against the Communist Party.

"I think it is unwise," he said, "for a member of the Communist Party to be employed by the Justice Department or by the government generally."

The statement raised the whole constitutional question of whether Communists do not have the same right to work for the government as members of any other political organization or party.

Several times Murphy defended the action of the Justice Department in prosecuting Earl Browder, General Secretary of the Communist Party, on a trumpet-up passport case.

He denied that the question of civil liberties was involved and said that it was simply "a case of violation of the law."

"That's all there is to it," he said.

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