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ing entirely the concept of an arbitrary and unalterable grouping of the country's carriers.

Blunder No. 1

The Dies committee's action in making public a list of government employees whom it accuses of some connection with the American League for Peace and Democracy strikes us as perhaps the worst of the blunders with which from time to time it has compromised its otherwise valuable investigation. Let us grant that testimony before the committee strongly supports the charge that the league is one of those Communist front organizations designed to masquerade as a patriotic body while doing Stalin's bidding. However, it has never been charged that its members were necessarily Communists; indeed, the evidence has plainly indicated that most of them were "innocents" or, in other words, idealistic radicals blind to their manipulation for Stalin's sinister purposes. Is it not a strange perversion of the function of a government agency tracking down un-American activities to pillory these citizens, even though in the case specified they occupy government positions?

The majority of the committee has argued that they deserve such treatment because, in the face of the committee's disclosures, they have not resigned from the league. In the first place, it is always difficult for dupes to accept the fact of their deception. In the second place, the list made public would seem to contain the names of those who have resigned or have permitted their membership to lapse, of others who never were members and of still others who never even received the league's literature. Unless we can dismiss as lies the many individual disclaimers which greeted the publication of the list we must conclude that an astounding carelessness went into its compilation. This alone is enough to condemn the proceeding, suggesting as it does that the committee is concerned more with rumors than with facts and thus calling in question the authenticity of its findings as a whole. We agree with Representative Voorhis, of California, one of the two committee members to protest against its action, that giving out the list was "just what the Communists wanted us to do." He added: "It will lead to casting doubt upon the findings of the committee when they are of the most substantial and important sort."

As our readers must be aware, we have consistently and constantly defended the committee against its traducers, including at one time the President of the United States, and have more urgently still championed its objective. We are fully prepared to continue doing so, while pleading with Chairman Dies and his colleagues to desist from inviting the ridicule which alone can destroy their efforts.

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