

Dies Defies Roosevelt's Rebuke On Inquiry's 'Sordid Procedure'

Tells Clubwomen Here Exposure Will Go On Regardless of Politics

Replying directly to President Roosevelt, who at his press conference yesterday characterized as "a sordid procedure" the action of the House committee investigating un-American Activities in making public the names of 563 Federal officials and employees listed on the membership or mailing rolls of the American League for Peace and Democracy, Representative Martin Dies, Democrat, of Texas, chairman of the committee, asserted here a few hours later that he would relentlessly pursue his course of exposing subversive elements in high or low places, regardless of political considerations.

Mr. Dies interpolated his rejoinder in a scheduled address before delegates to the 110th convention of the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs at the Astor. His address was broadcast over Station WOR from 2:15 p. m. to 2:45 p. m.

The committee, in making public the portions of the membership and mailing lists of the league which contained the names of government employees, contended that the organization was a front for the Communist International. Mr. Dies reiterated this charge in his address, asserting that his committee had enough evidence against the organization to warrant its conviction on a charge of falling to register as the agent of a foreign power.

In his reply to the President Mr.



Herald Tribune—Acme
Representative Martin Dies as he arrived in New York yesterday

Dies said: "I would not say that my wisdom or judgment was superior to that of the Chief Executive of the United States. But this I will say to you, Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt: You may regard the publication of the names of members of a Communist front organization as a sordid thing. You may be correct. But I say that, to my way of thinking, government employees belonging to an organization con-

(Continued on page 16, column 3)

Dies, Answering Roosevelt, Vows To Push Inquiry

(Continued from page one)

controlled by a foreign power ought to be exposed and the American people ought to know it."

Describing the objectives of his committee, Mr. Dies said: "I said at the beginning of this investigation that it would be conducted without fear or favor, and that I would not hesitate to expose any man, Republican or Democrat, in government or industry. And if, in the interest of political expediency or party leadership, I would have to nullify my conscience, I would surrender my commission and go back to private life with my honor unimpaired."

"While I love my party," Mr. Dies concluded this passage, "I love my country more."

After "two years of tireless work and honest, conscientious effort," Mr. Dies continued, his committee had disclosed that "the subversive elements in this country have made tremendous progress."

Among the disclosures, Mr. Dies cited the revelations that "nearly one-half of the directors of the C. I. O. (the Congress of Industrial Organizations) are or were Communists or follow the party line," and that "the Federal government has Communists in key positions." Mr. Dies went on, would prevent him from telling the people the truth.

The government employees named in the list made public by the committee had had ample opportunity to dissociate themselves from the American League for Peace and Democracy, Mr. Dies said, but instead they had "sought to discredit the committee and to heap ridicule on it."

"The members of the committee asked," Mr. Dies continued, "Is it right for us to expose the poor Communist in the street and the member of a Fascist organization, if we are to protect government employees holding high positions in the government?"

While making no explicit reference to the neutrality debate in the Senate, Mr. Dies said that while he sympathized with Great Britain and France, "despite the base ingratitude they showed to us at the close of the last war," it was his opinion that "the best contribution we can make to the happiness of mankind and the cause of democracy is to stay on our own shores and make democracy work within the framework of the American Constitution and under the American flag."

Mr. Dies admitted that the task of exposing "the termites who have ceaselessly gnawed at the pillars of the Republic" was not an easy one and in his peroration he enlisted the aid of the members of the federation.

"To you women and mothers of the federation, to you we look," he said, "you who are not seeking political preferment, pleasing an audience or acting on a stage."

"As a humble member of Congress I commit to you the great task of preserving America so that your children and the children of your children can be free under God and under the constitution."

Mrs. Rudolph M. Binder, who was elected president of the federation last spring, has designated American patriotism as the central theme of the program of her two-year administration. In presenting Mr. Dies, Mrs. Binder, who presided

yesterday, called for "a movement among women's clubs to work against un-American activity."

Other speakers at the convention were William Fellowes Morgan jr., Commissioner of Markets, and Francis B. Harmon, assistant to the president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, Inc.

Roosevelt Rebukes Inquiry

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27.—President Roosevelt departed from the rules governing his press conferences today in administering a rebuke to the Dies committee for its "exposure" of government employees on the rolls of the League for Peace and Democracy.

When asked to comment on the publication of the list earlier this week, the President replied that he had not read enough of the details of the rather "sordid procedure" to comment. Mr. Roosevelt then acceded to a reporter's request that the rule governing direct quotations from the President be suspended to permit use of the phrase.

The row over the latest controversial action of the Dies committee was resumed on the floor of the House this afternoon when Representative Clare Hoffman, Republican, of Michigan, introduced a bill to prohibit payment of salaries to Federal employees belonging to any organization which "teaches or is affiliated with" organizations advocating overthrow of the American form of government.

Representatives, including members of the Dies committee, were quick to defend or condemn the 563 Federal employees, ranging from \$10,000-a-year executives to charwomen who work for 50 cents an hour.

Representative John Dempsey, Democrat, of New Mexico, a member of the Dies committee who was not present when publication of the list was authorized, said the action had resulted in the "assassination" of the character of innocent persons who had never belonged to the league.

Representative Noah M. Mason, Republican, of Illinois, the member of the committee at whose insistence the list had been made public, then said that the action had been "the culmination of a campaign of moral suasion" conducted by the committee to secure, first, the resignation of innocent public employees from the league, and, second, the resignation from government service of those civil servants who knowingly abetted Communists in their "efforts to overthrow the government."

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