

# MANY ON DIES LIST VAGUE ABOUT IT ALL

Deny or Doubt Membership in Peace and Democracy Body—Others Tell of Resigning

SOME ADMIT BELONGING

And Say League Is Not a Red 'Front'—Issuing of Names Ridiculed by Accused

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
WASHINGTON, Oct. 25.—Government officials and employes whose names were listed today by the Dies committee as members of the League for Peace and Democracy, which the committee calls a "Communist front" organization, made varying responses to requests for comments on the publication of their names.

Some admitted they were members and could see no harm in their membership; others said they were not and never had been members and could not explain how their names got on the committee's list. Still others were not certain whether they were members, while some said they had resigned within the last year or two, as the committee had asserted all government employes should have done after its publication of evidence intended to show the Communist-inspired nature of the organization.

Some of those listed, largely as WPA employes, were reported as not carried on the government rolls. Many of those on the list were out of their offices, tied up in meetings or reported out of town.

Some of the Comments

Among comments of persons listed were the following:

Allan Buchanan, Economist, of the Tariff Commission—"I was a member up to about a year ago. I think the whole thing is a joke and a farce; it doesn't disturb me in the least."

Stanley Surrey, Assistant Legislative Counsel of the Treasury Department—"I was a member up to some months ago. My wife does not work for the government but when she did up to two years ago I know she was not a member. I hear the list is a mailing list only, but I have received no mail from the organization; I don't know whether Mrs. Surrey has or not."

Thomas E. Howard, senior administrative officer of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration—"I am a member, but I'm not a Communist and I never have attended a league meeting."

Miss Helen Wood, a director of the Wage and Hour Division of the Labor Department—"I am not and never have been a member and never have been on the league's mailing list so far as I know. I can't explain how I got on this list, unless it was through the fact that I was in church and settlement work in New York City ten years ago and Dr. Ward (Harry F. Ward, league head) is also a church leader."

Milton Kramer, principal attorney of the Railroad Retirement Board—"I think I'm a member, but I'm not sure."

Dr. Louis Bloch, member of the Railroad Retirement Board—"I know that two or more years ago I paid a \$1 or \$5 initiation fee, but I don't know whether I am still a member or not, and would really like to know. I get the league's literature and have no objection to publication of my name, for I always understood it was an open and public organization."

## LISTED BY THE DIES COMMITTEE



Edwin S. Smith  
Times Wide World, 1939



Louis Bloch  
Times Wide World, 1939

### Listing Called "Ridiculous"

Robert Nathan, Department of Commerce—"I am a member, but no more of a Communist than the committee members. Publication of the list is pointless and ridiculous."

Fred G. Krivohos, attorney for the National Labor Relations Board—"I am not now and never have been a league member. If I am on the mailing list I don't know how I got there."

Lincoln Fairley of the WPA—"I am on the mailing list, but I have let my membership lapse."

Merrill G. Murray of the Social Security Board—"I am a member, but have not been active. I joined because it looked like a progressive organization, and from the press reports I am still not convinced that it is communistic or a Communist front. So far as I have seen the program of the Washington chapter, it is a commendable one. It seems to me that publication of the list before members had a chance to go over it was unfair."

Edwin S. Smith, member of the National Labor Relations Board—"No comment."

Nathan Witt, executive secretary of the NLRB—"I am not a league member and never have been."

Arthur Stein of the WPA—"I am a member. No further comment."

Bruce Jenkinson of the WPA—"I am on the mailing list but I don't know whether I am a member or not. If I am I seem to be in rather good company."

### SEATTLE BUND DISBANDED

Unit Leader Says Members Are American Citizens, 'by Choice'

SEATTLE, Oct. 25 (AP)—Dissolution of the Seattle unit of the German-American Bund was reported today by Paul Stoll, named as unit leader in Dies Committee testimony last week.

A few hours earlier he said he had quit the bund because of announcement in Washington that all members must register under the Alien Registration Law and he refused to be classified with any group whose members were designated "foreign agents."

"We are all American citizens," said the cabinet maker, who lost his job yesterday. "No alien has been permitted to join. We are citizens by choice, not by, shall I say, inheritance. We pledged ourselves to uphold the Constitution. Now we are told that the bund is opposed to the Constitution. We are not; we are for it. Our unit is dissolved."

He attributed his dismissal by a wood concern to the bund notoriety. The company did not give any reason.

## 563 FEDERAL AIDES PUT IN RED 'FRONT'

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the Labor Board; Lincoln Fairley, senior economist for the WPA; L. C. Vass, former WPA statistical expert; Milton Cohen, former WPA attorney; Merrill G. Murray, director of the Analysis Division of the Social Security Board; Ward B. Freeman, coordinator engineer, and Foster Adams, chief research statistician for the REA; Willard W. Beatty of the office of Indian Affairs of the Interior Department; Robert Marshall, administrative officer of the Forest Service; Helen Wood, director, and George S. Wheelset, economist of the Wage-Hour Division of the Department of Labor, and Milton Kramer, principal attorney for the Railroad Retirement Board.

With the list the Dies committee issued the following statement:

"As a result of testimony which has been presented to our committee at intervals for more than a year it has been established conclusively that the American League for Peace and Democracy was organized and is controlled by the Communist party. More than a year ago the committee pointed this fact out in connection with the Washington branch of the American League for Peace and Democracy, which is largely composed of government employes.

### Cites "Branding" of League

"On Jan. 3, 1939, the committee unanimously adopted a report in which the American League for Peace and Democracy was branded as a Communist front organization. With few exceptions, the government employes who are members of the local branch of the league continued their affiliation with the league in so far as this committee is informed. The committee, therefore, feels that these government employes have been fully apprised of the true nature and purpose of the league and have been given ample opportunity to sever their connections with it.

"From the files of the local branch of the League it is made clear that nuclei have been established in different government agencies.

"We feel that the country is entitled to this information since many of these employes hold key positions in the government. The committee has not hesitated to make public the names of private citizens who have been charged with Communist or Fascist activities and we can see no justification for making an exception in the case of government employes. In fact there is more reason for making public the names of government employes than in the case of private citizens."

### Statement by Lamberton

A formal response for the league was issued by Harry C. Lamberton, chairman of the Washington branch, as follows:

"The action of the Dies Committee in publishing a list of members and individuals on the mailing list of the Washington branch of the American League, with their salaries, together with the utterly false statement that the American League is a Communist-front organization, is an outrageous violation of civil liberties. Certainly it can serve no possible public purpose.

"The Washington branch of the American League for Peace and Democracy has made it plain on numerous occasions, and has tried its best to get an opportunity to make plain to the Dies Committee, that it is not a Communist-front organization. The league is a democratically controlled organization, responsible only to its membership, and owes no allegiance either directly or indirectly to any other organization or individuals.

"The league some weeks ago furnished the Dies Committee with a detailed list of all of its activities since its organization in Washington. These activities can by no stretch of the imagination be characterized as un-American. On the contrary, they are aggressively American.

"When I testified Monday before the Dies Committee, I asked to be allowed to make a full presentation of our program. This opportunity was denied me. Instead, Chairman Dies has continued his tactics of attempting to vilify and intimidate government employes.

### Lays "Effrontery" to Dies

"Most recently he has called upon members of the league to resign. In plain language, this means that Chairman Dies has the effrontery to ask government employes not to belong to organizations of which he personally disapproves."

Some members of the committee who joined in publishing the list were quick to say that they did not mean to label members of the league as Communists, these including Representatives Casey of Massachusetts and Starnes of Alabama, but these statements did not mollify Mr. Dempsey.

He argued his contentions at the end of a brief session of the committee this morning, arousing par-

ticularly Representative Mason, Republican, of Illinois, who had put the motion for publication of the names.

"I'm afraid," Mr. Dempsey said, "that, in doing this, we not only release the names of some members, but those who contributed to Spanish refugees and are not members at all."

"The action was taken and that settles it," Mr. Mason retorted.

Representative Voorhis said that he was "in accord" with Mr. Dempsey, but felt that he should abide by the wishes of the majority of the committee, to which Mr. Dempsey replied that, while he opposed Communists in the government, "I am not for smearing a lot of American citizens."

When Representative Thorkelson first tried to insert the list in the Congressional Record he was dissuaded by Representative Rich, Republican, of Pennsylvania, and on a subsequent attempt Mr. Coffee balked him.

### Defends League Members

In the House debate, which immediately followed these moves, Representative Voorhis declared that he was "convinced" the league was "substantially dominated by Communists," but that he also knew "the vast majority of the people who joined are no more Communists than the gentleman from Montana."

Representative Hook, Democrat, of Michigan, suggested that the government "get a real list of Communists instead of the phoney list we have now."

When Mr. Thorkelson finally was able to speak he caused another uproar by stating that, after reading the remarks of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt at The New York Herald Tribune Forum yesterday, he had decided that she "evidently" thinks we shouldn't hunt members of these subversive organizations.

Mr. Coffee took the floor later to ask the House to "repudiate" the committee for "an unwarranted intrusion on American rights."

"The committee is guilty," he added, "of being engaged in un-American activities, the very thing it was appointed to smoke out."

### Action Assailed by League

The action of the Dies committee in making public a list of governmental employes was assailed here yesterday in a statement from the national office of the American League for Peace and Democracy, 79 Fifth Avenue, as "a dictatorial attempt on the part of Mr. Dies to intimidate government employes and officials from the exercise of basic lawful freedom."

The statement declared it evident that Mr. Dies and his committee "plan to smash any and every organization which has supported the progressive principles of the New Deal Administration."

It added: "Long after Mr. Dies' name has been forgotten the 600 names of the members of the American League for Peace and Democracy in Washington will stand as a testimonial to the courage of Americans who refuse to be intimidated by this twentieth century inquisition. No American is safe so long as the Dies committee is permitted to defy the American Bill of Rights. The American League for Peace and Democracy will continue to expose the enemies of peace and democracy in the United States."

## All but 66 on WPA Here Sign U. S. Loyalty Pledge

All except sixty-six of the 103,985 WPA workers in this city have sworn that they do not support or belong to an organization that advocates the overthrow of the Federal Government through force or violence, it was disclosed yesterday at the offices of Lieut. Col. Brehon B. Somervell, local Work Projects Administrator.

The sixty-six who did not sign the pledge of loyalty required under the 1939 Relief Act have been prevented by illness from doing so, WPA officials explained. None has appeared for work since the deadline of Sept. 30 set by Congress.

The Workers Alliance, which has been described in testimony before the Dies committee as a "Communist front," instructed its members to take the oath.