

California Demos Brand Dies' 'Witch Hunting'

THE infamous Dies Committee is asking this special session of Congress for a new lease of life, an extension of its authority to operate beyond January 1.

At this moment, the Santa Monica Democratic Club No. 1, in a resolution adopted by the membership on October 13, demands Congress abolish the Dies Committee, as follows:

"Whereas: the Dies Committee has been pretending to investigate subversive activities, and

"Whereas: the whole line of their investigation has taken the turn of a drive against liberal and progressive democracy in the witch-hunting guise of an investigation of Communist activity, and

"Whereas: the Dies Committee has persistently slurred over the investigation of the German 'Bund,' of which organization a wealth of evidence of real subversive activity has been offered to the committee, and

"Whereas: previous events have shown, as in Germany and Italy, that whenever a Fascist drive is begun it starts as a so-called 'anti-

Communist' drive and is then followed by a complete smashing of all democracy, the mildly liberal parties, the fraternal organizations, trade unions and even the churches; now, therefore, be it

Dissolve Dies

"Resolved: that Santa Monica Democratic Club No. 1 go on record as completely opposed to the Fascist policies of the Dies Committee, and be it further

"Resolved: that we call on Congress, specifically the liberal Congressmen from California, on the President of the United States, and on Sheridan Downey, to use all influence and power at their command to see that the pro-Fascist Dies Committee is dissolved, and that a further reiteration of the principles of American democracy, as expounded by the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, be made; and that the civil liberties of American citizens are guaranteed as stated in these most valued and beloved American documents."

Santa Monica's Democratic Club is to be congratulated on plainly

expressing the aversion of all progressive people to the subversive activities of the Dies Committee. It comes at a time when the Dies gang is opening fire on the movements and rights of the people of California.

When the Dies Committee opens its so-called "hearings" on October 31 in San Francisco, we may expect to hear all over again, in more detail, the harrowing tales of how Governor Olson, Lieutenant Governor Patterson and Senator Sheridan Downey "took orders from Moscow," etc.

As the Democrats of Santa Monica say, the Dies drive against the Communists is just the smoke-screen, the real drive is against labor and democracy as a whole—a Fascist drive. In 1938, the Dies Committee toured the country to smear all Congressional candidates opposed to the tory coalition led by that "evil old man" from Texas, Jack Garner.

Dies and Rossi

In 1939, it is no accident that Dies is bringing his wild animal show to San Francisco just one week before the Fascist mayor Rossi, who is cooperating by intensive red-baiting against Franck Havenner, must win or lose the mayoralty election. Mr. Havenner may expect "witnesses" to unload large cans of red paint at the appropriate hour. It means votes for Rossi.

We may expect to hear the sad tale that the SRA is "over-run" with Communists since poor Dewey Anderson got the gate; that all the universities are limiting the curriculum to teaching communism (they are generally referred to as "hot beds"); that literally thousands of "Moscow agents" roam loose around the docks of San Francisco; that Phil Bancraft has found Communists roosting in his walnut trees; that the Democratic Party is little but a "front" for the Communist Party, and so on ad lib. Harry Bridges, of course, will be hung, drawn and quartered.

The People's World, having been a thorn in the flesh of the Associated Farmers, et al, Congressman Dies is going after us, too. He is going to "prove" that we are a "Communist paper." Can there be any doubt of it when the editor "admits" that he is a Communist? So what? Paul C. Smith "admits" he is a Republican. Therefore The Chronicle is a Republican paper. But The Chronicle will not admit that.

Reichstag Fire

Yet Dies' attack is not so much against the Communists, for they are relatively few, but to break up by "red scares" the unity of the progressive people, the unity of labor's rank and file, to cause disruptive "purges" in the ranks of democracy, frightening the timid progressives to renounce their bolder brothers, and by wrecking unity of the people to open the door for reaction and fascism, to silence the people's protest against war, profiteering and monopoly.

To his assistance will come the disgruntled petty politician, the rats and finks of the labor movement, the renegades and stool-pigeons, the paid and congenital liars. By authority of Congress, every slander is legalized, put beyond libel suits as "testimony" which the tory press would not otherwise dare print. With good reason, the Santa Monica Democratic Club demands an end to this Fascist campaign.