

WE, THE PEOPLE

## DIG AT DIES QUIZ

### PLEASES HUGHES

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#### Chief Justice Congratulates MacLeish—Opens Court Door to Victims

By JAY FRANKLIN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—There was a significant bit of by-play Tuesday when the British Ambassador deposited a copy of the Magna Charta at the Library of Congress. In accepting custodianship of this document, Archibald MacLeish, the librarian of Congress, made a statement deliberately addressed to the Dies committee on "un-American activities."

Mr. MacLeish said: "Governments by the people's representatives, like other governments, can be misled. Government by the people's representatives may, from time to time, mistake for the defenders of the people's rights, the false defenders of the people's rights—the demagogues, the same in every genera-

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tion, who appeal to liberty in order to destroy it.

"Government by the people's representatives may, from time to time, substitute inquisitions and espionage for the equal protection of the laws, and may permit the inquisitors, in their reckless search for enemies of liberty, to break down liberty."

During the delivery of these "un-American" remarks, Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes of the Supreme Court beamed and nodded approval and afterward telephoned Mr. MacLeish to congratulate him on this passage.

Since the Supreme Court fight of 1937, the Chief Justice has been seeking to rehabilitate the tribunal in liberal opinion and his hospitable reception of the MacLeish speech is being interpreted by New Dealers as a broad hint to appeal from Mr. Dies and his fellow Red hunters to the protection of the courts, which forbid persecution of citizens for reasons of conscience, color, religion, sex or opinion.

Mrs. Roosevelt's bold coup in inviting to lunch at the White House members of the Youth Congress, being attacked for "heresy" by the Dies Committee, gives added point to the Hughes-MacLeish episode.

#### A Different Kind of Inquiry

At the same time, the La Follette Senate Civil Liberties Committee is preparing to hold hearings in California. There the issue of isms and Read-baiting is most acute. Instead of using smear tactics, the Senate committee has sent a picked corps of economic experts into California.

These experts, instead of attacking the status of the migratory workers on the moral basis of "right" and "wrong" or pillorying the Associated Farmers, are trying to discover the real cause of California's agrarian troubles and to indicate the real remedy—if there be a remedy.

Both committees—the Dies' Red-hunt and the La Follette investigation—will expire at the next Congress unless they get additional funds. For this reason, serious consideration is being given to the proposal that both groups should be discontinued and that a joint Congressional committee be appointed to investigate "threats to democracy."

#### An Impartial Committee

Senators La Follette of Wisconsin and Thomas of Utah would be on this new body, as well as Representative Dies—together with such additional members from both houses of Congress as were needed to give it impartiality.

Some time ago, such a merger

was proposed, but that time Mr. La Follette objected. Now the funds of the Dies group are running low, and Mr. Dies himself is engaged in a public campaign for more money with which to conduct his unending quest for "radicals" and "Fascists."

Under these circumstances, some New Dealers hope that the whole operation of unmasking the domestic enemies of democracy may be combined and made responsible.

#### Adolf I on Way Out?

The Department of Agriculture, of all places, is responsible for digging up an interesting series of historical facts on the rulers of Prussia. In every century but one, the ruler of Prussia has died in the year '40.

Here are the date: Frederick I, 1415—1440; Joachim I, 1499—1535; George William, 1619—1640; Frederick William I, 1713—1740; Frederick William II, 1797—1840.

As Henry Wallace's experts put it, it's a 4 to 1 shot that Adolf I will be out next year.