

Brash Mr. Dies

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

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HON. FRANK E. HOOK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 6, 1942

Mr. HOOK. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I include the following editorial from the Washington Post:

BRASH MR. DIES

HENRY WALLACE'S tongue-lashing of MARTIN DIES was a thoroughly workmanlike job. The brash Congressman from Texas had it coming to him. His passion for the lime-light is so great that he does not always scruple about the methods he employs to achieve it. There was a time when Mr. DIES and his committee appeared to be doing a job that needed to be done in the way of exposing un-American elements in our midst. In the process, it is true, they smeared perfectly innocent individuals, while other individuals, not so innocent (George Viereck, for instance) were handled with kid gloves. Still the public was inclined to forgive Mr. DIES' aberrations in order to permit the committee to carry on. But they will regret that indulgence, we feel, in the light of Mr. DIES' latest crusade against staff members of the Board of Economic Warfare.

Just why MARTIN DIES chooses this moment to assail these persons is not clear. The Congressman himself will no doubt protest that he was acting out of purely patriotic motives. It is permissible to suspect other motives, however. Surely he was not unmindful of the possibility that this latest exposure would get him into the headlines and, perhaps, help overcome the reluctance of the Appropriations Committee to approve funds for the continuance of the Dies committee. There is certainly an ancient and fishlike smell about the disclosures. DIES apparently did not consult even his own committee before giving out to the press his open letter to Vice President WALLACE.

Congressman DIES sought to pillory certain individuals because of their alleged association with Communist-dominated organizations. It is a shopworn smear technique.

In Mr. DIES' case it is likewise a boomerang. As a man who has appeared on the same platform with Fritz Kuhn, who has been the darling of the Christian Front, and whose words have frequently and enthusiastically been quoted by the Nazi press and radio, Congressman DIES ought to be a little chary, these days, of raising the charge of guilt through association. But Mr. DIES also stooped to smear. In the case of one individual, he cited a court verdict to condemn a man whom a higher court exonerated. Mr. DIES said nothing about the exoneration.

In impugning the patriotism of certain members of the Board of Economic Warfare, Mr. DIES was also impugning the efficiency of the Civil Service Commission and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, both of whom look into the records of all prospective employees of the Government. Both give special attention to those appointed to high administrative posts. It is always possible that in this case or that a slip-up occurs. Vice President WALLACE recognizes this. And he assures us, and there is not the slightest reason to doubt his assurance, that he stands "ready at all times to have any and every fact regarding our employees thoroughly investigated." But that would not have suited Mr. DIES' immediate book.

Mr. WALLACE declares in his statement that the "doubts and anger which this and similar statements of Mr. DIES tend to arouse in the public mind might as well come from Goebbels himself as far as their practical effect is concerned." This is strong language. It cannot be said that it is undeserved.