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Dear Friend:

RE: DIES COMMITTEE

The mood of Congress as expressed in the WPA Appropriations measure, in which the reactionaries (Democrats under the leadership of Vice-President Garner, plus nearly all the Republicans) showed great and well-organized strength, makes for a bad outlook in regard to the future of the Dies Committee. Unless tremendous pressure is brought on individual congressmen from their constituents, it is likely that Dies' new resolution, with a very large appropriation of funds, will go through.

Fortunately, Dies seems to have been persuaded to abandon his original plans for introduction of a privileged resolution, which would have meant immediate consideration in the House, with one-hour time limit on discussion. Apparently he will let his resolution go through the usual committee channels. This will give us more time. But the House Committee members before which the resolution will come are for the most part friendly to Dies, and we can expect very quick action from them to bring his resolution to the floor.

Meanwhile, it is of the utmost importance that protests go in greatly increased numbers, against any further appropriations for the Dies Committee. It is especially important that these resolutions come from A. F. of L. unions, church groups, organizations of women, of voters, consumers, etc., and other bodies not commonly referred to as "left," and from thousands of individuals.

Wires and resolutions should be sent to the senders' own Congressmen, and to Speaker William B. Bankhead, House of Representatives. If possible copies of such resolutions should be sent to this office.

The reactionary forces and organizations throughout the country are much busier than we on this question. Resolutions and telegrams are pouring in from them, asking for continuance of the Dies Committee. We have to get doubly busy on this. Every local channel of publicity, mailing, personal contact and visits to organizations should be utilized without any delay.

Defeat of the Dies Committee is the first order of business on the I.L.D. Legislative Program.

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RE: LA FOLLETTE COMMITTEE

There is grave danger that the La Follette Senate Civil Liberties Committee will fold up and not be revived. Vice-President Garner, who is president of the Senate, is marshalling all his forces to prevent continuation of the committee and its work.

Resolutions and telegrams along the same lines and with the same emphasis on the type of organizations and individuals, should be sent asking for continuation of the Committee and its work to:

Senator La Follette,
Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah,
Senator Alben Barkley,
Vice-President Garner,
President Roosevelt.

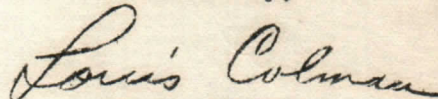
The same story as that of the Dies Committee applies in reverse to the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee, except that this is a Senate matter. The reactionary forces, fearing the exposure of such fascist outfits as the Associated Farmers of California, are bending every effort to prevent continuation of its work.

Speed is essential here also.

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These two questions, of the Dies Committee and the Senate Civil Liberties Committee should definitely be made the subject of separate resolutions in organizations. Separate letters and telegrams should be sent.

Fraternally,


LOUIS COLMAN

LC:MB
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