

Is this investigation going to put 12,000,000 people to work? What good, I ask you, is this resolution going to do? It is evasion, I tell you, evasion.

Oh, you say, we are going to investigate "un-American activities." Un-American! Un-American is simply something that somebody else does not agree to. If you are for the wages-and-hours bill, if you are for freedom of speech, if you are for a fair living wage—that apparently is un-American to some people.

Here, let me read you something else—I have in my hand a very finely written brochure, a part of which is as follows:

"Mr. Opposition: I am opposed to the wage-and-hour bill. It is un-American. It limits our freedom and liberty."

There is no telling what "un-American" means to some people. It is apparent that even the Supreme Court has held unconstitutional—and hence, un-American I suppose—the State and District wages-and-hours laws. By now, these same laws are held constitutional, and hence not against our form of government.

The Supreme Court has changed its opinions on dozens of legal principles and laws in the last 1 or 2 years.

Nobody knows what is un-American.

I ask you, What is un-American?

Mr. KNUTSON. The goose-step.

REPUBLICANS SAY ROOSEVELT IS UN-AMERICAN—WILL HE BE INVESTIGATED?

Mr. MAVERICK. Oh, principally it is un-American if you do not agree with somebody. That is what un-Americanism is, I suppose.

I do not know what this committee is going to investigate. All you can find out is that seven men, each according to his own judgment will investigate "un-American activities." Judge not, lest ye be judged.

The Republicans say that what Roosevelt does is un-American, and other people may say that some other thing is un-American. The Republicans on the committee can investigate Mr. Roosevelt and the Democrats can investigate Mr. Landon, Mr. Browder, Mr. Thomas—everybody who ran against Roosevelt. This will be the greatest fishing expedition that Congress ever undertook in the history of the United States.

WE HAVE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION NOW—A WASTE OF MONEY

Further, this is a waste of money; there is no question about it. There is no reason for this investigation, because we have right now all the information necessary.

We all know about the Nazi camps, where they are, and everything else. We all know that a Congressman's house has been picketed—not one but several.

LET THE PEOPLE EAT—HEADLINES INSTEAD OF GROCERIES

We do not have to investigate to find out what we already know; and if we do investigate, the only reason for our investigating will be for us to go around here and scare the people with exciting stories, making them suspicious of their fellow Americans, which will get the committee members headlines in the papers; in other words, the motto will be, "Feed the people headlines instead of groceries and jobs." [Applause.]

WHY NOT INVESTIGATE REAL FACTS—THE INEQUALITIES OF THE SOUTH?

Now, what could we do that might be of benefit to the country? We hear a great deal about the South. We hear a great deal about the inequalities of the South, and I want to tell you serious inequalities actually exist.

If we really wanted to be somewhat or slightly statesman-like, if we really wanted to be students, if we really wanted to look into the economic welfare of this country, why doesn't this House that is getting so big-hearted and patriotic pass a resolution to investigate the inequalities of freight rates and the other inequalities affecting the people of the South so they will be enabled to comply with the requirements of the Minimum Wage Act? [Applause.]

This is something that is sincere.

This is something that is honest.

But this investigating "un-American activities" is simply fourflushing and ballyhooing around before the people of the United States, propagating more hysteria to sidetrack the real questions—and I want to tell you that the economic

questions of this country will never be solved until you solve the problems of the South, and I am not a professional southerner or a baiter of southerners, either.

WHY NOT INVESTIGATE UNEMPLOYMENT?

There is another thing I want to bring to your attention. We had numerous requests for investigation of unemployment, but what did we do at the last session?

We sat together like a covey of scared quail and passed a resolution to have a 1-day census of the unemployed, and flew away to our districts. As a result, at this very moment we do not know the cause of unemployment, nor even have any idea about it.

We refused to investigate the question of unemployment.

Now, what's more important than that?

What is going to stop communism and fascism and all the violations of our Constitution except we go into these problems, these fundamental questions, instead of indulging in this superficial ballyhoo?

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to make this statement about the resolution: We have had these resolutions before, and, as far as I know, they did not do any good; but if they did do any good, they have procured all the information that is necessary, and we do not need any more resolutions like this.

I want to say this to the Democratic Party: We are charged with the responsibility of governing the people, and we ought to do it. And I want to say this to the Republicans: If you join in this, you are joining in ballyhoo and stupidity.

We have got problems to meet, and we do not meet problems properly in any such manner as this. This resolution is a slipshod written one, and if we leave this Congress in the shape we are in now, we will leave it on a sour note and we will leave it on a note of tom-tom beating, and we will not be accomplishing anything for the welfare of the American people.

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MAVERICK. I yield.

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS—THIS ONE TO FIND WHO PAINTED THE PLYMOUTH ROCK RED

Mr. FLETCHER. I asked the gentleman to yield to make this inquiry: I believe the gentleman from New York [Mr. Fish] made a very extensive and detailed investigation of this matter at one time under the inspiration of various organizations. Was anything ever done as a result of his findings with respect to this subject, that the gentleman recalls?

Mr. MAVERICK. Well, we have had one Republican investigation that caused some furor, and that was the Fish investigation; and then we had the other one by Mr. McCormack and Mr. Dickstein. I think we have had about a 50-50 proposition on these foolish things, and that ought to be enough.

I do say that out of the McCormack resolution the very thing that we are talking about is in conference right now, which I mentioned earlier in my speech. Gentlemen here voted for it, and that was to make it so that foreign organizations or agents have to register. That meets the situation, and what we are proposing to do now is to investigate the picketing of a Congressman's house and the painting of Plymouth Rock red. Nonsense!

Mr. JOHNSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MAVERICK. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Minnesota. The gentleman said that the resolution is somewhat narrow. On the other hand it is general. On the first page there is the language:

All other questions in relation thereto that would aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation.

Under that they could investigate Old Faithful geyser in Yellowstone National Park.

Mr. MAVERICK. Certainly. You have a resolution here that covers every question of fancy, fact, or imagination on the earth.

Mr. FLEGER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MAVERICK. Yes.

Mr. FLEGER. The gentleman said something about the unemployment situation. Is not unemployment the germ

that creates racial hatred and prejudice that is brought about? Is not that what we are trying to remedy now, and does not that exist in the world today?

Mr. MAVERICK. That is true.

We should attack the unemployment situation.

That is what brought on nazi-ism in Germany. It was unemployment, distress. That is the reason that the Nazis got away with that stuff.

So we ought to attack the unemployment situation.

But I want to answer another argument that was made here. They say if you go to Germany or to Russia they will not let you criticize over there. No; we still have freedom of speech, press, and religion here, and that's the reason that the United States of America is a great country. [Applause.] It is because we let the Jew or the German or anybody else who lives here say what he pleases, even if he criticizes our form of government, our President, or our flag, because our form of government, our flag, and our country stand against all the onslaught of mere speech. Truth, in the end, decides. The essence of democracy is freedom of speech and religion and the security of government lies in each man having a right to live like a human being.

Mr. KNUTSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MAVERICK. Yes.

Mr. KNUTSON. I think the gentleman is right when he intimates the purpose of this resolution is merely to provide a group of Congressmen with board and room during the summer months.

Mr. MAVERICK. I do not mind the board and room—what worries me is the trouble that will be caused.

Mr. FORD of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MAVERICK. Of course.

Mr. FORD of California. Does the gentleman believe that people in camps hailing Hitler and saluting the swastika are engaging in activities that we ought to permit in the United States?

Mr. MAVERICK. No! But since you say it and it is common knowledge, why spend 7 months investigating what we already know? The answer to it is to be found in the Voorhis bill or similar legislation. Pass such legislation and you can stop uniformed bullies.

We have all the necessary information. But what we are doing here is merely evading the issue by a lot of loud talk, and I conclude by saying that I hope we will vote against this resolution.

Mr. ROBSION of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MAVERICK. I yield to my friend.

Mr. ROBSION of Kentucky. I have not had an opportunity to investigate the Voorhis resolution or bill. Does the gentleman from Texas recommend the Voorhis bill, and will he vote for it, if it comes up?

Mr. MAVERICK. I do not know that I shall vote for it letter for letter, but it has been referred to the Military Affairs Committee because it involves military uniforms, and, in effect, "private armies."

So let me repeat, we already know that the Nazis are walking around in uniforms, and I do not believe this country should permit any private army. The Congress of the United States has a right to protect the Constitution and its laws, and we do not have to have an investigation in order to do that. In fact, it is our duty to do so, and when we have the information upon which to legislate, and we don't do it, we are not doing our duty, and are bamboozling the public.

We already know all we want to know about these Nazis, as well as Communists. This resolution is merely an excuse to do nothing.

Mr. STARNES. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MAVERICK. Sure.

Mr. STARNES. The House Immigration Committee has before it a bill, which it tabled, which would handle this very situation without the necessity of an investigation.

Mr. MAVERICK. Mr. Speaker, if we pass this resolution we are just passing the buck, and the American people will know it. It is a mania—it comes every now and then, about every 3 or 4 years. If we adopt this resolution it is adopting a scapegoat for the things we should have done.

We know very well that if we set our minds to it, we can pass the necessary legislation to cover all situations discussed today. We know very well that this resolution is to raise a big smoke screen, for us to go home without really meeting fundamental questions. Remember, my friends, headlines do not fill people's stomachs, nor loud speeches educate a child. [Applause.]

Un-American Activities

SPEECH

OF

HON. MATTHEW A. DUNN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 1938

The House had under consideration House Resolution 282, to investigate un-American activities

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, the resolution which is being considered before the House today is for the purpose of appointing a committee to investigate the un-American activities that are supposed to be going on throughout our country.

According to statistics there are, at the present time, approximately twelve to thirteen million people unemployed in the United States, which means that a big percentage of the population is suffering because of the lack of food, shelter, clothing, and other essentials. In my opinion, this inhuman treatment of our fellow men is abominable, outrageous, and very much un-American. The committee should be authorized to investigate the cause of this unemployment condition.

President Roosevelt and some of the Members of Congress have tried to remedy the unemployment situation. If all the Members of Congress would think as much of their fellow men as they do of themselves there would not be any unemployment in the United States; all those who would be able to work would have a job at a saving wage; the aged and others who, because of a physical disability, cannot be employed would be given adequate pensions; sweatshops, child labor, slum district, and poorhouses would not exist.

LAWS RELATIVE TO THE PRINTING OF DOCUMENTS

Either House may order the printing of a document not already provided for by law, but only when the same shall be accompanied by an estimate from the Public Printer as to the probable cost thereof. Any executive department, bureau, board, or independent office of the Government submitting reports or documents in response to inquiries from Congress shall submit therewith an estimate of the probable cost of printing the usual number. Nothing in this section relating to estimates shall apply to reports or documents not exceeding 50 pages (U. S. Code, title 44, sec. 140, p. 1938).

Printing and binding for Congress, when recommended to be done by the Committee on Printing of either House, shall be so recommended in a report containing an approximate estimate of the cost thereof, together with a statement from the Public Printer of estimated approximate cost of work previously ordered by Congress within the fiscal year (U. S. Code, title 44, sec. 145, p. 1938).

Resolutions for printing extra copies, when presented to either House, shall be referred immediately to the Committee on Printing, who, in making their report, shall give the probable cost of the proposed printing upon the estimate of the Public Printer, and no extra copies shall be printed before such committee has reported (U. S. Code, title 44, sec. 133, p. 1937).