

Units Set Up By Consumers Called Red

Dies Aid Charges Party Uses Them To Overthrow U. S.

By the United Press.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The Dies committee charged today that 13 consumers' organizations were being used by the Communist party as "transmission belts" to spread its aims among the middle classes and to "discredit . . . the economic structure of free enterprise."

J. B. Matthews, research director for the committee, reported that the Communist party was "utilizing consumers' protests to overthrow the capitalist system and put in its place a Soviet system."

He accused the Agriculture Department of giving "frequent and favorable" publicity to one of the alleged Communist-dominated organizations through the Consumers' Guide, published by the Department's consumers' counsel.

Mr. Matthews, a former fellow-traveler of the Communist party, was a witness before the committee last year. After testifying he was hired as the committee's chief investigator. During recent hearings on the American Youth Congress, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who attended them, criticized him for questioning witnesses as though they were "criminals, considered guilty, being tried before the bar."

Only Dies Present.

Mr. Matthews' report on consumers' organizations was filed with the committee at "a special meeting" Sunday, Dec. 3. The only member of the committee present was Chairman Dies (D., Texas).

The report blamed Communist propaganda among consumer organizations for what it described as "the current popular and official attack upon advertising." It cited "the recent action of a government official in the Department of Agriculture who undertook an investigation of national advertising in Good Housekeeping Magazine."

Matthews did not name the official, adding that while there was no record that the findings were "used as a basis for action against the magazine, it may be assumed that such was the intention."

There is a Federal Trade Commission complaint pending against Good Housekeeping charging it with misrepresentation.

List of "Belts."

The consumers' organizations alleged by Matthews to be "transmission belts" were the League of

Women Shoppers, Consumers Union, Consumers National Federation, Committee for Boycott Against Japanese Aggression, Milk Consumers Protective Committee, the Consumer-Farmer Milk Co-operative, New York Consumers Council, and six organizations in New York, Detroit, Chicago and Los Angeles, "set up by Communists and their sympathizers and purporting to combat the high cost of living."

Of some of these organizations Mr. Matthews' report had the following to say:

The League of Women Shoppers—
"The first of the Communist party's consumer organizations set up in 1935." An active organizer, the report said, was Susan Jenkins, who, it added, once admitted under oath in New Jersey Chancery Court that she had been an employee of the Daily Worker, Communist publication.

Consumers' Union—"Three persons held the leadership in the agitation and maneuvering of the Communist party which resulted in the setting up of Consumers' Union," Susan Jenkins, Arthur Kallet and Walter Trumbull.

Trumbull was "court martialed and sentenced" in 1925 as a "Communist attempting to bore from within the United States army," it said; Kallet "has been actively engaged in exploiting the consumer movement, as expressed in the co-operatives, on behalf of the Communist party."

Committee for Boycott Against Japanese Aggression—"The hand of the Communist party" in this group, the report said, is clear from the names of participants, who included Ben Gold, Robert W. Dunn, Michael Quill, William B. Spofford, Jerome Davis, William Hinckley, Joseph P. Lash and Kathleen McInerney.

The Milk Consumers' Protective Committee, whose chairman is Susan Jenkins—The report said an affidavit by Meyer Parodneck, vice chairman, alleged that Rose Nelson, one of the organizers, was "an avowed member of the Communist party."

The Consumer-Farmer Milk Co-operative—It said Susan Jenkins and Parodneck were "among the most active leaders" of this group.

New York Consumers' Council—Susan Jenkins, vice president.
Consumers National Federation—

According to the report described by Earl Browder, head of the Communist party, in his testimony as one of the party's "transmission belts."

"Worthy of Attention."

"Communists understand that advertising performs an indispensable function in a mass production economy, and that advertising as an economic process, wholly apart from questions which have to do with good or bad advertising copy, is essential a part of the distributive mechanism as are railroads and retail outlets," the report said.

"Therefore, Communists believe that to sabotage and destroy advertising, and through its destruction to undermine and help destroy the capitalist system of free enterprise is a revolutionary tactic worthy of a great deal of attention."