

VOORHIS ATTACKS DIES, MATTHEWS

Inquiry Member Challenges
Procedure in Report on
Consumer Groups

DECLARED 'UNDEMOCRATIC'

Charges Denounced Here as
Irresponsible, False, Unjust,
Sloppy and Inaccurate

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (AP)—
Representative Voorhis of California, a Democratic member of the Dies Committee, accused the committee today of using "undemocratic" procedure in preparing and making public a report which said that some consumer groups were Communist "transmission belts."

He declared that the report was "purely and simply the opinion" of J. B. Matthews, committee research aide, who placed the report in the committee record at a subcommittee meeting attended only by Chairman Dies.

"It was released to the press by a suddenly appointed one-man subcommittee before other members even knew such a report was in process of preparation," Mr. Voorhis said.

He added that "not a single hearing has been held on any of the matters" contained in the report and that none of the persons mentioned had ever been called to the stand.

"I believe," he continued, "the committee is put in a very difficult position by releasing a report which attempts to brand as Communist intrigue protests against high milk prices, the teaching of young women to be wise buyers, or the efforts of consumers to secure the honesty in advertising which every reputable merchant and business man in America desires as much as the consumers do."

A letter today from the national committee on social studies of the American Association of University Women demanded that hearings be held "in view of the false impression of the consumer movement created" by the report.

The Matthews report said that "a great part of the current popular and official attack upon advertising is the direct result of Communist propaganda in the field of consumer organization."

Report Denounced Here

The report of J. B. Matthews, investigator for the Dies committee, drew further attack here yesterday. Denouncing it variously as irresponsible, false, unjust, sloppy and inaccurate, were William Loeb of Oyster Bay, L. I., chairman of the former Committee for a Boycott Against Japanese Aggression; William W. Kinckley, former chairman of the American Youth Congress; Helen Hall, chairman, and Professor Robert Lynd, vice chairman, of the Consumers National Federation, and Meyer Parodneck, president of the Consumer-Farmer Milk Cooperative, Inc., and one of the three vice chairmen of the Milk Consumers Protective Committee.

Mr. Loeb asserted that "the sloppy and irresponsible methods of Mr. Matthews" were "extremely detrimental to public confidence in the sincerity and accuracy of the Dies committee's work."

While personally "very much favoring genuine investigations of un-American activities," Mr. Loeb denied "most emphatically that the Committee for a Boycott Against Japanese Aggression was ever dominated or influenced by Communists." He further said:

"I wish to point out that the individuals mentioned in the report were never members of the committee. Such absolutely inaccurate information serves only to hurt a truly worthwhile attempt by hundreds of thousands of sincere Americans to do something effective to help China."

Mr. Loeb telegraphed to Mr. Dies that "the silliness of American Communists is only surpassed by

evidence presented by Dr. Matthews must challenge the attention of American publishers, American business and all Americans who are interested in the preservation of a free press."

Retort by Professor Warne

AMHERST, Mass., Dec. 11 (AP)—
The charge that the Consumers Union of the United States was "formed by Communists" was described today by Professor Colston E. Warne of Amherst College, president of the organization, as "indicative of the unfairness of the Dies committee."

"Specifically," said Professor Warne, "we are unfairly charged with having three alleged Communists on our board of directors: Abraham Isserman, counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union; Dr. Jerome Davis, former president of the American Federation of Teachers, and Miss Kathleen McInerney of the League of Women Shoppers."

"The progressive non-Communist work of the Civil Liberties Union and of the American Federation of Teachers is sufficiently well known to make refutation unnecessary. Miss McInerney falls into a different category. Her background with the Democratic National Committee is apparently not to be considered. We confess she is a real 'Red.' The Dies committee must have been attracted by her auburn locks."

The Consumers Union, Professor Warne asserted, had 90,000 members and was non-partisan and non-political.

Mr. Loeb telegraphed to Mr. Dies that "the silliness of American Communists is only surpassed by the absurdity of Matthews's attacks."

Hinckley Hits "Loose" Charges

William W. Hinckley, former chairman of the American Youth Congress, after denying that he had participated in the American Committee for Boycott Against Japanese Aggression, as stated in the Matthews report, said that he was "in full agreement with what I understand to be its objectives" and that he had signed the committee's protest against Japanese aggression in January, 1938.

"I have appeared before the Dies committee recently to refute equally loose and unjust charges made with respect to the American Youth Congress," he went on. "Unfortunately, Chairman Dies and Mr. Matthews were not present on the day that I appeared, nor do they seem to have read my testimony."

In their joint statement, Miss Hall and Professor Lynd declared: "In the case of the Consumers National Federation, it (the Matthews report) was released without giving

In their joint statement, Miss Hall and Professor Lynd declared: "In the case of the Consumers National Federation, it (the Matthews report) was released without giving us a hearing to meet and refute charges which have now been blazoned throughout the country. We cannot see that there is either common decency or the shadow of fair play in such procedure. It is an outrageous exhibit of the abuse of governmental power and is full of inaccuracies, innuendoes and falsities."

Mr. Parodneck declared that "the products of J. E. Matthews's latest 'research' are not only reckless but downright dishonest." He added: "If the activities of our organization come within the definition of subversive activities, I am sure the majority of Americans are subversive, otherwise they would not be working for the social reform which has been instituted in recent years."

Robert W. Dunn, executive secretary of the Labor Research Association, declared:

"I want to state categorically that the association is not 'an agency of the Communist party.' Furthermore, I am unaware of any testimony before the Dies committee that has so 'shown.' I was never notified by the Dies committee that we were even discussed before it. The Dies-Matthews allegations with reference to us constitute another attack on the labor movement."

Richard E. Berlin, executive vice president of Hearst Magazines, Inc., referring apparently to that part of the Matthews report which said that Communist propaganda had prompted government agencies to investigate national advertising, notably in Good Housekeeping Magazine, declared that "the dramatic