

# Buyer Groups Chorus Denials Of Dies Charges

## Consumers' Leaders Angry at 'Red Front' Report, See Abuse of Official Power

A chorus of denials of Communist domination of American consumers organization, as charged by J. B. Matthews, research director of House Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities, in the statement made public by the committee on Sunday in Washington, was raised here yesterday by leaders of organizations mentioned, coupled with a denunciation of the publication as an irresponsible misuse of government power.

Miss Helen Hall, chairman of the Consumers National Federation, and Robert Lynd, vice-chairman and author of "Middletown," made public a joint reply from the Henry Street Settlement House, of which Miss Hall is director. Mr. Matthews's report, they said, was "full of inaccuracies, innuendoes and falsities. It was accepted and issued at a public report at a session at which only one member of the House Committee was present, Representative Martin Dies, Democrat, of Texas, its chairman. In the case of the Consumers National Federation it was released without giving us a hearing to meet and refute charges which have now been blazoned through the country. We cannot see that there is either common decency or the shadow of fair play in such a procedure."

Miss Susan Jenkins, member of the Milk Consumers' Protective Committee, 215 Fourth Avenue, denouncing the Matthews report, attributed it in so far as she was concerned to personal enmity, aroused when she was active as a striking employee against Consumers' Research in Washington, N. J., in which Mr. Matthews was interested. She pointed out that the strikers were organized by the American Federation of Labor and won a decision against the concern from the National Labor Relations Board.

Arthur Kallet, director of the Consumers' Union, similarly denied charges of Communist influence in his organization and said it would welcome investigation by the committee.

William W. Hinckley, former chairman of the American Youth Congress, 8 West Fortieth Street, denied he ever was a member of the American Committee for a Boycott Against Japanese Aggression, as charged by Mr. Matthews.

An opposite view of the report was taken by Richard E. Berlin, executive vice-president of Hearst Magazines, Inc., who issued a statement recalling that in August, he charged that "subversive elements, pretending to serve the consuming public, but actually motivated by Communist theories, have persist-

ently been attacking the institution of advertising and 'Good House-keeping Magazine,' in particular." The report of the Dies committee, he said "demonstrated graphically the dangerous work of the radical groups in the consumer movement.

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

### Decries Matthews Charges

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

"Specifically, 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 said, had 90,000 members and was non-partisan and non-political.