

Matthews Still Strikebreaking, Says Milk Co-op

Dies Aide Is Merely Continuing His Former Role In Attack on Consumer Groups, Declares Protective Group Head

Susan Jenkins, director of the Milk Consumers Protective Committee, yesterday charged that J. B. Matthews, research director for the Dies Committee, is using the House committee "to injure those who have come in conflict with him in the past" when he engaged in strikebreaking against his own employees.

Miss Jenkins referred to the strike of the employees of Consumers' Research in 1935 when Matthews headed the organization. Her statement came in reply to the latest outburst from the Dies committee, through allegation by Matthews. This time, Dies' chief stooge charged that 13 consumer organizations, among them Consumers' Union, the Consumer-Farmer Milk Cooperative, National League of Women Shoppers and like organizations, are "Communist dominated" in a "plot to overthrow the capitalist system" through an "attack upon advertising."

This latest "discovery" by the Dies committee brought a new wave of denunciation and ridicule upon it, especially upon Matthews, the man who is remembered for his disclosure that even Shirley Temple is linked to Moscow doings.

"The most shocking aspect of Mr. Matthews' statement," said Miss Jenkins, "is the use that he makes of his present ability to get publicity, to injury those who have come in conflict with him in the past."

Recalling that she had taken part in the strike of employees of Consumers' Research in 1935, she said that the employees then were fighting for a minimum wage of \$3.13 a week.

Robert W. Dunn, executive secretary of the Labor Research Association, also singled out for attack by Matthews, came back with a sharp retort, charging the Dies Committee that it had not even seen fit to inform the Association that it was being "investigated."

"I want to register a vigorous denial of the unfounded allegation of J. B. Matthews, research director of the Dies Committee, who is widely quoted in the newspapers of Dec. 11 as referring to 'Robert W. Dunn, director of the Labor Research Association, which was shown by testimony before the [Dies] committee to be an agency of the Communist Party,' Dunn said.

"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, nor have I ever been called to testify before this committee.

"Labor Research Association is largely devoted to research work for trade unions—A. F. of L., CIO and railroad brotherhoods. The Dies-Matthews allegations with reference to us constitute another attack on the labor movement."

KALLET REPLIES

Arthur Kallet, director of Consumers' Union, as did Miss Jenkins, denied membership in the Communist Party, as Matthews alleged. Kallet denied any connection or

Voorhis Calls Matthews a '1-Man Judge'

Rips Into Dies Stool for Attack on 13 Consumers Organizations

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (UP).—Rep. H. Jerry Voorhis, D., Cal., today attacked the Dies Committee, of which he is a member, for the "undemocratic" manner in which it released a report charging Communist activity among 13 consumer organizations.

Voorhis said he wanted to "disavow and disclaim" any responsibility for the report. He said it was "purely and simply the opinion of Mr. J. B. Matthews (the Committee's research director), who, in spite of past connections with a consumers' organization other than those attacked in the report, sits as sole investigator, judge and juror on the whole consumers' protective and cooperative movement in America."

"ONE-MAN" COMMITTEE

He added that the report was released to the press by "a suddenly appointed one-man sub-committee" before other members even knew it was being prepared.

"If anything is undemocratic in the world certainly this procedure is," Voorhis said in a formal statement.

"I am utterly unable to see what business a committee on Un-American activities has defending advertising as such regardless of its merits or attacking consumers' counsels or casting discredit upon a properly filed complaint of the Federal Trade Commission against a powerful magazine." (The Commission now is holding hearings on a complaint charging Good Housekeeping with misleading advertising practices.)

Voorhis said the "only decent thing" for the Committee to do now is have full hearings and "let the facts speak for themselves whatever they may be."

He said he "bitterly resented" the Matthews' attacks on the consumer movement.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (UP).—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, questioned today about the Dies Committee's report that consumers' organizations are being "used" by the Communists, said she had seen no evidence that the consumer groups are Communistic. She declined further comment on the grounds that such things require no comment until proved.

Mrs. Roosevelt said she belongs to none of the organizations listed by J. B. Matthews the Committee's

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Arthur Kallet, director of Consumers' Union, as did Miss Jenkins, denied membership in the Communist Party, as Matthews alleged.

Kallet denied any connection or even acquaintance with Walter Trumbull, who in 1935 was assigned by the A. F. of L. as organizer in the Consumers' Research strike. Kallet said:

"We cannot believe that making comparative tests of consumers' goods and reporting the test findings, which is the work we do, is in any way subversive or destructive. Mr. Matthews can find in our publications, numerous objections to specific claims made by advertisers, when these claims are at variance with the facts as disclosed by our chemists and engineers, but he cannot find any general attacks upon advertising, for they are not there to be found.

"The best proof that we believe advertising to be a valuable economic force is that we use it regularly ourselves.

"We should be happy to present before any public body, including the Dies committee, sworn statements by Mr. Matthews himself which contradict testimony given by him later before the Dies committee and which upon the motivations of his present charges to serious question."

He said Consumers' Union "would welcome and fully cooperate in any responsible investigation of the consumer movement and of itself."

Mrs. Sophia Ames Boyer, President of the National League of Women Shoppers, revealed that her organization had offered several times to send representatives to Dies to appear before his Committee, but was ignored.

"Instead," Mrs. Boyer said, "he now permits to be made public the ridiculously untrue and unsubstantiated attack of Mr. J. B. Matthews. The only knowledge that Mr. Matthews has of the league dates back to 1935 when the league supported his striking employees at Consumers Research. Evidently we were effective enough in so doing to draw this retaliation now from Mr. Matthews."

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