

RED CHARGES DENIED BY CONSUMER GROUP

National Federation Calls Them 'Innuendoes and Falsities'

The Consumers National Federation denounced yesterday for its "inaccuracies, innuendoes and falsities" the report of J. B. Matthews, investigator for the Dies committee, linking consumer organizations with the Communist front.

The federation denied any connection with communism in a joint statement by its chairman, Helen Hall, president of the National Federation of Settlements and head of the Henry Street Settlement, and its vice chairman, Robert Lynd, Professor of Sociology, Columbia University.

"The Consumers National Federation is not a Communist organization nor a 'transmission belt,' nor do its policies in any way reflect Communist nor any other political control," the statement read.

"The general impression left by the press summary of this report is that the consumer movement is a destructive force in our national economy. Nothing could be farther from the truth nor more pernicious at the present time. The consumer movement is and, under its present leadership, will continue to be one of the most constructive forces in American life.

"Every housewife wants to buy intelligently in the market and to get good value for her money. It is a strange outcome of our democratic processes if, as Chairman Dies implies, it is 'communistic' or 'subversive' to try to get value for your money or to help housewives get value for their money.

"We wish Mr. Dies would give us an opportunity to show him some of the letters we have had from consumers and consumer groups over the country asking us to send them reliable information on price and weight and quality. This is not the procedure of irresponsible agitators.

"The pity of it is that the resources of the organized consumer movement are so inadequate for the tremendous job to be done. It was to make more effective the educational work of a number of national consumer organizations that the Consumers National Federation was set up in 1937 with an executive committee composed of outstanding leaders in the community. These organizations aim primarily to serve the lower-income groups and, so far as we know, it is not un-American to be poor nor to serve the poor."