

Mr. DICKSTEIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There was no objection.

(Mr. DICKSTEIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

911046-7356
GEORGE E. DEATHERAGE

Mr. DICKSTEIN. Mr. Speaker, George E. Deatherage was fired by the Navy from a job he held under that Department at Norfolk, Va., because it was determined by investigations conducted by myself and by the Dies committee that Deatherage was not in sympathy with the country's program, but was a proclaimed Fascist and not a fit person to be associated in any way with the armed forces of the United States. If you recall, Deatherage was one of the leaders of the White Camellias who were advocating fascism in

this country. There are many more Deatherages in the service of the country who have no place there; there are many other Fascists in this country, American Fascists, holding key positions in the defense program while law-abiding, honest-to-goodness Americans capable of performing those duties have a difficult time to get in under the present set-up.

Deatherage was discharged from his job with the Navy after an investigation was conducted by Secretary Knox. When he was dismissed the Secretary described him as an undesirable person. He had been employed at the Norfolk Navy Yard as an engineer. He was discharged after a careful study of his past record. The country hoped and trusted that that would be the last we heard of Deatherage, but we find now that this same gentleman, Mr. Deatherage, is employed by the Army Engineer Corps and is holding a responsible position—the very man who advocates fascism, the very man who openly advocated a Fascist dictatorship for our country.

The Army Engineer Corps, I am reliably informed, hired Deatherage without having asked the F. B. I. to investigate him. We have been assured time and again that the Civil Service Commission or the F. B. I. is asked to check on all people connected with the defense program. There is supposed to be an investigation in every individual case to determine whether a man's ability and background are such as to justify his being placed in a responsible position. I am informed that Deatherage was never investigated by the F. B. I. with respect to his second job. What the country is entitled to know is how he secured his present position without being investigated and who is protecting him in the Army. It seems to me we are pursuing the wrong policy when a man with a record such as Deatherage has can be placed in a responsible job while young men and women before they can be employed in even a minor capacity have to be investigated by the F. B. I. It is an outrage to see a man who has been investigated and condemned by the Dies committee, by the McCormack committee, and by the F. B. I., who has been accused of being a Fascist by Members of Congress, who has been investigated by Secretary Knox and found to be unfit—to see such a man being able to secure a position with the Army of the United States. I call the attention of the House to this fact and make the statement that there must be some steps taken to remedy such conditions if we want unity and strength to fight our enemies from within and from without. If we expect to win this war and this peace we cannot afford to play ball with men like Deatherage who advocate the very principles of fascism and nazi-ism against which we are fighting today. Deatherage and his friends have as much sympathy for democracy as I have for Hitlerism. We owe it to our boys in the trenches to protect the home front for them and to do that we have to protect our institutions against men like Deatherage. We shall never win this war with Deatherage and the likes of him holding responsible jobs with the Army, Navy, or the Intelligence Services. It is about time that we wake up and face the issue of native fascism which is just as

dangerous to the safety of our country as is the fascism we are fighting abroad.

[Here the gavel fell.]