

The Dies Committee

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF

HON. LEE E. GEYER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 23, 1940

LETTER BY BRUCE HANNON, SECRETARY-TREASURER OF
THE MARITIME FEDERATION OF THE PACIFIC

Mr. GEYER of California. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks, I wish to submit a letter from Mr. Bruce Hannon, secretary-treasurer of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific. I believe Mr. Hannon has made a very good appraisal of the work of the Dies committee.

The letter follows:

MARITIME FEDERATION OF THE PACIFIC,
San Francisco, Calif., January 20, 1940.

Congressman L. E. GEYER,

House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: A bill to continue the work of the Dies committee is scheduled to appear before the House Rules Committee January 22. We feel that we must express ourselves upon this issue so that you may know the opinion of the maritime workers on the Pacific coast toward the activities of this committee.

You have, undoubtedly, read some of the excellent detailed reports by various representative American groups on Congressman DIES' apparent aims and objectives. It is needless for us to go into detail on this matter except to point out that Congressman

DIES, in his report to Congress, listed 14 C. I. O. unions as Communist controlled. Among those numbered were the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union, American Communications Association, and the National Maritime Union, which are affiliates of ours. Congressman DIES, nor any of his committee members, had the American decency to contact any official of the I. L. W. U. in order to verify the statement that the I. L. W. U. was Communist controlled, taking the word of such people as Larry Doyle and Harper Knowles, two antilabor elements that have been thoroughly exposed in Dean Landis' report on the Harry Bridges deportation case.

The facts he has found concerning the National Maritime Union have been based, almost entirely, upon the testimony of a thoroughly discredited and expelled member of the N. M. U., by the name of McCuiston. This person, at the present time, is under an indictment for murder, being accused of deliberately shooting down in cold blood an agent of the N. M. U. in New Orleans.

The same sources are responsible for the attacks made upon the American Communications Association.

We firmly believe Congressman DIES' whole efforts and activities are directed toward destroying labor organizations and every progressive element in these United States that in the least way, challenge the domination of that small circle in American society, whom Congressman DIES represents.

If Mr. DIES were honest in his attempts to uphold the Constitution of these United States and, in his own fashion, really endeavored to better the conditions of his own constituents, we could perhaps view with some leniency these things for which he is responsible. However, we must point out that Congressman DIES is nothing but the political expression of a State notorious for the prevalence of peonage, wage slavery, and poll-tax politics. Congressman DIES is so much a part of that notorious political machine entrenched in office through disenfranchisement of workers that he would not uphold the Constitution of these United States by voting for the antilynching measure, which, if passed, would make our Constitution a fact as well as a theory in the Southern States.

We believe that a vote for a new appropriation for the Dies committee will unleash another series of Palmer raids. We believe that these moneys can best be used to help alleviate the appalling distress so prevalent among the millions of unemployed citizens in these United States.

We suggest that a determined effort can be made to safeguard American democracy by removing the greatest threat to our Nation, which is unemployment and poverty. This means increased expenditures for relief, W. P. A., National Youth Administration, and C. C. C. campaigns.

Our American democracy cannot be safeguarded by forgetting our social needs and devoting moneys to witch hunts.

Yours very truly,

BRUCE HANNON,
Secretary-Treasurer.