

Summary of the Investigations and Findings of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

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OF NEW JERSEY

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Mr. THOMAS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I include the following summary of the investigations and findings of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities.

This special committee of the House has been in existence for almost 4 years. Three times since the creation of the committee in the spring of 1938, the question of continuing its investigation has come before this House. Each time the House has voted by an increased and overwhelming majority for the continuance of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities. This ever-increasing majority in the House has been paralleled by an ever-increasing favor in public opinion. Each successive annual Gallup poll has shown that the American people approve the work of the committee by increasing and overwhelming majorities.

The dwindling opposition in both this House and among the American people is striking testimony to the effectiveness of the committee's work. The abusive and smearing tactics which the representatives of totalitarian ideology have employed in their efforts to discredit the committee have not availed to lessen the esteem in which the work of the committee is held. The committee has seen its work distorted by Nazi and Communist knaves to make a trap for fools. But, despite the shrillness and the disproportionate volume of the opposition of these minorities, this special committee of the House has received overwhelming approval from the House and the American people.

The approval which has been accorded our committee rests solidly upon the

character of its investigations and the importance of its findings. It is my privilege at this time to offer the House a brief summary of the investigations and findings of our committee.

1. EXTENT OF OUR INVESTIGATION

The sheer bulk of the committee's published hearings and reports is impressive. To date, 45 volumes of hearings, reports, and other published records have come from the presses. Other volumes are in preparation, and two of very special importance will appear shortly. These two forthcoming books will deal exhaustively with Japanese espionage and with anti-Semitism as an instrument of Axis propaganda.

The committee's volumes cover the activities of hundreds of subversive organizations and tens of thousands of individuals. The public and executive hearings which are recorded in these thousands of printed pages were held in such widely separated cities as Washington, Los Angeles, Chicago, New Orleans, New York, Detroit, Kansas City, and San Francisco.

The committee's unpublished reports, original documents, records, and other files are far more voluminous than its published material. It may be safely said that the Dies committee's records on subversive activities are the most extensive to be found anywhere in the world. They constitute an invaluable and irreplaceable source of information for the protection of this country against the subversive activities of the agents of foreign powers. In addition to their general educational value, these files have already been used in the successful criminal prosecution of more than a hundred individuals who were engaged in subversive activities. For an unpredictable time to come, these files will constitute a source of information for the defense of the American way of life against its subverters.

2. INFORMATION FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Numerous agencies of our local, State, and Federal Governments have drawn heavily upon information in the committee's files. Within the limits of space, time, and committee personnel, nothing has been spared to accommodate these Government agencies in order that they might have the benefit of our committee's investigations.

The Dies committee has on file 821 letters of request and receipts for information from Government agencies. These have been given the most prompt attention. These letters and receipts are from the Department of Justice, Naval Intelligence, the Military Intelligence, the Department of State, the Office of the Coordinator of Information, the Civil Service Commission, the Treasury Department, the Department of Labor, the Federal Works Agency, the Department of Commerce, and the General Accounting Office. As an example of the cooperation we have rendered, I quote Attorney General Biddle's statement before the House Appropriations Committee on January 13:

I would like to add, Mr. Congressman, that the Dies committee has been most cooperative. They have given us everything that they had. Their position has been most coopera-

tive. I will say that as far as I am concerned I will say that they do cooperate and give us every possible piece of information that we desire.

Examples of this type of service which the committee has rendered agencies of the Federal Government may be found in a request from the Office of the Coordinator of Information for the loan of 250 documents from the committee's files, a request which was promptly granted.

Several agencies of the Federal Government have assigned personnel permanently to the office of the Dies committee, where they are constantly checking the records of individuals. These agencies include the Civil Service Commission, the Secret Service of the Treasury, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Federal Works Agency, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Special agents of numerous Federal Government departments, in addition to those permanently assigned to our office, visit the Washington offices of our committee for the purpose of checking the records of individuals. During recent weeks the names of 2,438 individuals have been checked against our files by representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Naval Intelligence, the Military Intelligence, the Secret Service of the Treasury Department, the Department of Justice, the Washington Navy Yard, the General Accounting Office, the Department of Agriculture, the United States Naval Research Laboratory, the Department of Commerce, and the Office of Emergency Management.

It is obvious, of course, that these agencies have found the committee's files to be fruitful sources of information. Their assignment of permanent personnel to the committee's offices and their frequent requests for information are evidence of this fact.

In addition to the use of our files in the Washington office of the committee, there has been a corresponding use of the files of the committee's regional offices by many agencies of the Government. In some cases this has been a factor large enough to require the committee to employ additional clerks in these regional offices. I can frankly say that our committee has been the fountainhead for information on un-American activities.

3. INFORMATION FOR USE IN OTHER COUNTRIES

The published reports of our committee have been in demand throughout the world. The British Government requested and obtained a large number of copies of the committee's 500-page report on the activities of the German consulates, the German Library of Information, the German Railway Information Office, and the Transocean News Service. Our own Department of State forwarded copies of this report to many foreign countries.

The press of every country belonging to the United Nations has for years given large space to the reports and findings of our committee. It is nothing unusual for the British press to ask that one of the lengthy reports of the committee be cabled in full for use in the British press.

The Washington press corps representing foreign newspapers and magazines

has continually sought and obtained interviews from the chairman of our committee for the purpose of dispatching special stories on the committee's work and findings. It is significant that not a single such interview has ever been requested by a member of the press representing the newspapers or magazines of an Axis country.

4. NAZI AND FASCIST INVESTIGATIONS

Our committee's first public hearings, held in August 1938, provided a comprehensive exposure of the nature and activities of the German-American Bund. For many weeks, one of the committee's investigators had made a first-hand investigation of the bund by secretly becoming a member of the organization. At those early hearings, every ramification of the bund was exposed. A year later, the head of the bund, Fritz Kuhn, was put on the stand for several days. Even then, the committee did not end its investigations of this Nazi Trojan Horse in our midst. In 1940, the committee published a separate book containing the secret manuals of the German-American Bund. These had been obtained from the personal effects of the head of the bund. They constituted a final and smashing exposure of the details of the bund's purposes and activities, confirming the committee's earlier findings regarding the utterly un-American character of the organization. The following is a list of Nazi and Fascist organizations that have gone out of existence because of the committee's exposure.

First. Silver Shirt Legion of America. Second. Kyffhauserbund.

Third. Knights of the White Camelia.

Fourth. American Nationalist Confederation.

Fifth. National Gentile League.

Sixth. Militant Christian Patriots.

Seventh. James True Associates.

Eighth. The American Rangers.

Ninth. The American White Guard.

Executive hearings under the chairmanship of Mr. VOORHIS of California heard voluminous testimony on the activities of the Italian Fascists in the United States. Several witnesses have testified in public hearings on these Trogan Horse organizations engaged in the subversive work of Mussolini.

It may come as a surprise to those who have listened to the opposition's distortions of the committee's work, but it is nevertheless a fact that our committee has, to date, received the sworn testimony of 129 witnesses on Nazi and Fascist activities in the United States. The testimony of these witnesses fills 2,896 printed pages in the committee's published hearings.

5. THE COMMITTEE'S "WHITE PAPER"

In November 1940 our committee published a 500-page report on the activities of the German consulates, the German Library of Information, the German Railway Information Office, and the Transocean News Service. This document was widely known as the German White Paper.

Under its powers of subpoena our committee obtained the files of these German organizations. They revealed the intricate espionage and propaganda net-

work of the Axis Powers operating in this country.

Prior to the declaration of war against Germany, in December 1941, the most decisive step which this administration had taken against the Axis Powers was the expulsion from our territory of the four organizations with which our White Paper had dealt in detail 8 months earlier. It is a matter of record that the entire files of our committee dealing with these Hitler agencies were turned over to the Department of State and the Department of Justice. These files were the principal basis, if not the exclusive basis, for the administration's act of expulsion.

Furthermore, the Department of Justice used the documents obtained by us and published in the White Paper in its successful criminal prosecution of the Transocean News Service, Manfred Zapp, Gunther Tonn, and F. Auhagen. Auhagen's organization, the American Fellowship Forum, was also exposed in the White Paper.

In addition to the foregoing, our committee's White Paper exposed the contractual relationship of George Sylvester Viereck, now on trial, with one of Hitler's subversive organizations, the German Library of Information. The committee also exposed the subversive acts of Baron Von Spiegel, Nazi Consul General in New Orleans. He was later recalled.

6. THE COMMITTEE'S "PROPAGANDA PAPER"

At the end of 1940 our committee published a study of totalitarian propaganda coming into the United States through the mails. Through its investigations, our committee had established the fact that tons of such printed propaganda were being distributed to the American people through the mails, which in effect meant distributed at the expense of American taxpayers. The committee's report revealed that 40 tons of such propaganda had come into the United States from a single source, namely, H. R. Hoffman, of Munich, Germany.

During the year 1940 practically all of this enormous tonnage of propaganda arrived by Japanese liners docking in the ports on our west coast.

The committee revealed in its report that the major objectives of the totalitarian propaganda coming into this country by mail were as follows:

First. Much if not most of this printed propaganda material was devoted to extolling the advantages of life under totalitarian rule. A wholly false picture was drawn of the material and cultural benefits bestowed by the dictators upon their own peoples.

Second. Millions of printed pages were filled with justification of totalitarian conquests. The conquering dictators were pictured as unselfish benefactors of the countries which they had overrun with their military machines.

Third. The whole of this totalitarian propaganda was calculated to arouse our hatred toward certain nontotalitarian governments and peoples with whom we were on friendly terms.

Fourth. One of the gravest aspects of this totalitarian propaganda was the inculcation of religious, racial, and class hatred between groups of citizens in the

United States. Such hatred had been the keystone in the arch of totalitarian power in the dictators' own countries; and their propaganda naturally aimed to accomplish in the United States results similar to their own, and to accomplish them by the same methods.

On the basis of the evidence revealed in the committee's Propaganda Paper, the Post Office Department took steps to stop the influx of this enormous quantity of totalitarian propaganda material.

7. ANTISEMITISM AS AN INSTRUMENT OF AXIS PROPAGANDA

From the very beginning of its work, our committee has made a thorough investigation of the numerous Nazi-minded native American groups which exploit racial and religious hatred. Our investigations have revealed the fact that anti-Semitism is widespread and probably on the increase throughout the United States. In a number of cases, the committee found that the leaders of these anti-Semitic organizations were in direct contact with German agents.

Some weeks ago, our committee brought to Washington more than a score of hostile witnesses who have been engaged in the spread of anti-Semitism. For reasons which will be easily understood, we decided to sit in executive sessions while hearing these purveyors of hate. Some of these witnesses frankly declared their approval of violence. One of them asserted that President Roosevelt and other leading Americans alleged by the witness to be of Jewish descent should be tried for treason and executed.

Our committee has in preparation at the present time an extensive study of these anti-Semitic organizations and individual leaders. This study will cover the committee's investigations in this field during the past 4 years.

One striking fact has emerged from the mass of testimony which the committee has heard on the subject of anti-Semitism: The use by the Axis Powers of anti-Semitism as an instrument for the spread of national disunity and defeatism among the American people.

8. THE CAMPBELL-GILBERT GROUP

Early in 1939, our committee uncovered a large quantity of documentary evidence which established the existence of an anti-Semitic plot whose ramifications reached into the United States Army. The leaders of this group were Campbell and Gilbert, the former operating out of Owensboro, Ky., and the latter out of New York City. The committee brought these men to Washington, and by public hearings completely discredited them. The evidence showed that Maj. Gen. George Van Horn Moseley had been implicated in the Campbell-Gilbert ring, and he, too, was subpoenaed for questioning before the committee in public hearings.

The Campbell-Gilbert technique in attempting to spread racial and religious hatred involved the manufacture of spurious predictions which these two men falsely ascribed to Jewish sources in an effort to prove that the whole United States Government is under the domination of a Jewish conspiracy.

THE CONVICTION OF WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY

From the beginning of our investigations in 1938, we have followed William Dudley Pelley's activities with exposure after exposure. After a long search for this man, who boasted that Adolf Hitler was his original inspiration, our committee brought him to the stand early in 1940. Pelley was compelled by exposure to transfer his activities to new territory. He launched a new publication and a new organization in Noblesville, Ind. Our investigators were almost immediately on the scene. We continued our exposure relentlessly. Once more, Pelley changed the name of his publication.

When Pelley was apprehended by the authorities of North Carolina and returned to Asheville for trial last month, he was an investigator from our committee who took the witness stand as the State's principal witness. Pelley's conviction was due almost entirely to the evidence which our investigation had produced.

10. THE COMMITTEE'S RED PAPER

Late in 1940 our committee brought out a 1,000-page document which was popularly known as the Red Paper. This document consisted of a collection of original Communist writings. It encompasses almost every important official pronouncement ever made by the leaders of the Communist Party in the United States. In brief, it is the authoritative source book for the meaning, teachings, and practices of the Communist Party. The volume is completely indexed. It has already served as an indispensable guide in numerous court cases.

In the near future our committee will publish a companion volume to the Red Paper. It is now in preparation and, when published, it will constitute the authoritative source book on scores of Communist-front organizations.

11. COMMUNIST SABOTAGE STRIKES

One of the earliest witnesses before our committee was the prominent A. F. L. leader, Mr. John P. Frey. Frey presented a mass of evidence on the Communist infiltration of labor unions. From that time to the present our committee has carried on its investigations in this highly important field of Communist efforts to hitch the American labor movement to its revolutionary wagon.

Time and time again we have seen our findings confirmed with respect to Communist leadership in the C. I. O. During the first half of 1941 a veritable tidal wave of sabotage strikes swept American defense industries. The whole country, as well as the Congress and the administration, became aware of the fact that Communists were the principal instigators of these assaults upon the American defense program. These strikes ceased only with Hitler's attack on Russia and the Communists' sudden discovery that the security of the Soviet Union—their acknowledged fatherland—was bound up with the question of all-out American defense production. The change in the party line was revolutionary, but it was dictated solely by the Communists' loyalty

to the Soviet Union and not by any patriotic love of America.

Every agency of Government was compelled to concur in our committee's findings that the strikes at Allis-Chalmers, Vultee, International Harvester, North American, Inglewood, and the Aluminum Co. were Communist-inspired and Communist-led.

12. THE AMERICAN PEACE MOBILIZATION

After our committee's persistent exposure of the American League for Peace and Democracy, that Communist-front organization was forced to go out of existence. Shortly after the league's dissolution, however, the Communists launched an even more ambitious substitute movement which they called the American Peace Mobilization.

For weeks the American Peace Mobilization picketed the White House. Under the complete domination of the Communist Party, the Peace Mobilization pickets carried placards denouncing convoys, expeditionary forces, and all other methods of aiding the embattled democracies in their struggle against the Axis Powers.

On the very day that Hitler marched into Russia, the American Peace Mobilization withdrew its White House pickets. A few days later, the name of the organization was changed to the American Peoples Mobilization.

Unions such as the National Maritime Union and front organizations such as the American Youth Congress were in the forefront of the leadership of the American Peace Mobilization. All of these organizations changed their line abruptly when Hitler turned on Stalin.

Our committee held extensive public hearings on the American Peace Mobilization, and established beyond any possible dispute the fact that the organization was nothing more than a subservient tool of the Communist Party.

13. COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF GOVERNMENT

Our committee has gathered a vast amount of documentary evidence showing the Communist affiliations of highly-paid employees of the Federal Government.

Last year, Mr. DIES turned over to the President and subsequently to the Civil Service Commission the evidence of Communist affiliations on the part of several employees of the Office of Price Administration. After making its own investigation, the Civil Service Commission concurred in our findings with respect to Robert A. Brady and Mildred Edie Brady. The Commission thereupon recommended the dismissal of these persons from their Government positions.

Recently, Mr. DIES gave to this House a documented report on the Communist affiliations of one Malcolm Cowley, \$8,000-a-year man in the Office of Facts and Figures. This week, Cowley has published a volume of poems which are out-and-out for the revolutionary overthrow of the United States Government. Those who are interested may read the poems for themselves or may consult a recent issue of Time magazine where Cowley's poems are described as the most inopportune volume of the year.

Several months ago, Mr. DIES submitted to the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission a completely documented report on the Communist views and affiliations of one of its highly-paid employees, Goodwin Watson. There is no need for me to review the evidence which was submitted to Mr. Fly. But I do wish to reiterate that Watson over his own signature wrote an article in the August 1934, issue of the Common Sense magazine in which article he advocated the swift and violent overthrow of our Government.

Thousands of Communists and Communist fellow travelers have infiltrated into our Government agencies. Our committee has a very detailed record of these proponents of the dictatorship of the proletariat.