

Appropriation for Dies Committee

SPEECH

OF

HON. JOHN J. COCHRAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1942

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. THOMAS] has just released to the press the most unwarranted attack that has ever come to my notice in my long service here upon a committee of this House. The language of the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. THOMAS] is such that I know, beyond a shadow of doubt, that I could rise to a question of personal privilege and be recognized for that purpose if I so desired, but I am not going to avail myself of that privilege.

The gentleman accuses the Committee on Accounts of refusing to appropriate additional money for the Dies committee.

I want to say to the Members of the House that immediately following the passage of the resolution extending the life of the Dies committee, I called a meeting of the Accounts Committee, and I endeavored to get in touch with the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DIES]. I could not find him. I was told at his office that he was around the city somewhere. Finally, after 2 days, I was advised by his secretary he had gone to Texas. I thereupon called the meeting off.

The Accounts Committee is not going to consider the resolution appropriating money to carry on the activities of the Dies committee in the absence of the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DIES], unless the gentleman is sick or advises me he cannot appear in person.

The gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. THOMAS] says they have little money. There was \$6,000 to the credit of the Dies committee this morning which shows the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. THOMAS] does not know what he is talking about.

After accusing the administration of bleeding the Dies committee to death, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. THOMAS] said this is—

a situation highly gratifying to the Communist Party and the various Nazi and Fascist organizations that were unsuccessful in block-

ing the continuation of the committee on the floor of the House.

And he then accuses the administration of deliberately moving to cut off the committee's funds. He continues by saying that the latest attack is the most insidious and successful attempt to date to throttle the committee, made at a time when there has never been a greater need for its existence.

The gentleman from New Jersey talks at random, and as chairman of the Committee on Accounts permit me to say that no member of this administration has ever approached me with any such suggestion. As I have repeatedly stated, the Accounts Committee is an agent of the House and when the House provides for a select committee it is the duty of the Accounts Committee to appropriate money so that it can carry out the duties imposed upon it.

The Accounts Committee has always made it a policy, especially where the time of a select committee has been extended, to require the chairman and members of the committee to justify their demand for an appropriation. That policy will be followed in connection with the Dies committee.

As those who have followed the activities of the Dies committee know, the Congress has appropriated \$385,000 during its life, which is more than has ever been appropriated for a select committee in its history. The Accounts Committee will, when the chairman of the Dies committee and the members of the committee justify an additional appropriation, bring in the proper resolution for that purpose, and not before.

I say to the gentleman from New Jersey the members of the Accounts Committee are not of that type who listen, as he says, to Fascists, Nazis, or members of the Communist Party.

On behalf of the committee, I resent the attack made by the gentleman from New Jersey.

[Here the gavel fell.]