

Memorandum to Mr. Goodman:

December 21, 1939

Subject: Connections between Martin Dies and John Henry Kirby

Martin Dies' biography taken from the official Congressional directory is attached.

I would like to know generally any information that can be obtained from periodicals in the Library of Congress about any of Martin Dies' career. More specifically, I am interested in his more recent public life beginning with the approximate time of his running for Congress. I am interested in anything that can be discovered about his law firm, Dies, Stevenson and Dies, particularly its clients. I am most interested, however, in Dies' campaign for office, particularly his first one in 1930; who supported him; what they said about him; what his opponents said about him; what he said himself, etc. I am informed that his most influential supporter was John Henry Kirby about whom see the brief summary from the records of the Senate Lobby Committee attached. I am reliably informed that Mr. Kirby made many statements in supporting Mr. Dies and I would like to have all of them.

I would also like to have all the available factual information on Mr. Kirby, particularly in connection with the Order of American Patriots, the Southern Committee to Uphold the Constitution (pay no attention to factual accounts of his testimony before the Lobby Committee), statements he may have made to the press prior to or following his testimony before the committee, his connections with Eugene Talmage, former governor of Georgia, and the Reverend L. K. Smith, former associate of Huey Long, his connections with the Sentinels of the Republic (he is a member of the executive committee) and any unseemly activity or propaganda of or by the Sentinels of the Republic.

I would also like you to check Poor's and Moody's on Mr. Kirby beginning in the year 1929 and showing all the corporations of which he was either an officer or a director or in which he held a large proportion of stock.

If you can find any information about Mr. Kirby's purchase or sale of lands he obtained from the State of Texas, I am also interested in that.

In the event you can find in the Library of Congress no file of newspapers from Mr. Dies' constituency (You will find a list of the counties he represents attached), Orange, his home town, is very close to New Orleans and you might find something in the New Orleans papers, particularly those which might be opposed to him.

Anything else that you might think of in the course of doing this will, I am sure, be of interest and value.

I would suggest that you do these things operation by operation so that from time to time you can supply me with the fruits of your labor.