

(Streamer Headline):

Dempsey Threatens to Quit Dies Probe Unless Attacks Stop

Col. 8, P. 1

Congressman Says Statements  
Hit Honest Citizens

Calls Allegations An  
Assassination of Character

CONDEMNS METHODS

'Wild, Irrational' Statements  
'Cowardly,' He Says  
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LORDSBURG, N.M. Oct 28 (AP)--Rep. J.J. Dempsey, member of the committee investigating un-American activities, in a telegram to Chairman Dies, Friday attacked the "assassination of characters" of outstanding citizens and said he would resign from the committee if such procedure were continued.

Dempsey and Rep. A.D. Healey of Massachusetts Thursday requested postponement of further committee investigations until after the elections. His telegram Friday was in reply to one from Dies.

Dempsey said: "You say it would be cowardly to postpone further hearings until the entire committee can be present and all the members can voice their feelings with reference to procedure. I know of nothing more cowardly than to permit wild and irrational statements, which have no basis in fact and have only for their end the assassination of characters of men who are outstanding and who both you and I know to be American citizens of the highest type.

"If this method is to be followed, it can only result in undoing what good the committee has accomplished and finally must result in total repudiation of these investigations.

"If we are to expect such a continuation, I have no other alternative than to ask the Speaker of the House to accept my resignation as a member of the committee and to insist that my name be used no further in connection with the committee's activities."

He asserted to Dies that when last present at a committee meeting, the majority decided hearings would be held in executive session "to protect citizens who were being attacked by irresponsible people, making harsh and detrimental statements which could not be substantiated."

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THE NEW YORK TIMES: Oct. 29, 1938 P. 3, col. 8

Legion Head Critical

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (AP)--The Dies Committee already has heard considerable testimony about communism in California. Harper Knowles, a Legionnaire, testified Wednesday that three Democratic candidates for the State had Communist sympathies, an assertion which brought several denials.

Henry G. Watters, California commander of the American Legion,

MORE MORE MORE

(Legion Story)--FOLLO

disclaimed responsibility for Mr. Knowles testimony in a statement at San Francisco last night.

Mr. Watters said that Mr. Knowles might even have listed the Legion among the organizations having radicals on its rolls.

"I realize," he added, "that it probably would be impossible for any organization to be able to boast of the fact that they were entirely free of radical members."

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THE NEW YORK TIMES Oct. 30, 1938--p. 5, col. 2

Defends Coast Veterans

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 29 (AP)--Patrick H.J. Farrell, Past National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, made public today a telegram to President Roosevelt as follows:

"Today's press carries news that a publicity-hungry resident of this State, one Harner Knowles, attacked in Dies Committee hearing two California volunteers in the World War--namely, Ellis E. Patterson, Democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor, and John Gee Clark, chairman Democratic State Central Committee.

"We are heart-sick to see a Congressional committee so prostituted and resent its exploitation by partisan Republican interests.

"We are proud of these men. Both are war veterans, members American Legion and are most loyal Americans and resent inference that a national governmental agency condones attempts to discredit them.

"A statement by you, released to press in Washington, will reassure us and counteract propaganda of the subsidized press. We rely on you for what cannot be done here and are deeply appreciative of your efforts so far."

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TELEGRAM OF HEALEY AND DEMPSEY TO DIES, FROM TIMES: 10/28/38;

"We request that you defer further meetings until we can be present after the election and until after the full committee has had an opportunity to meet and consider procedure for a preliminary examination of the testimony to be offered.

"In a few States like your State of Texas there is only one electoral struggle--in the primary--and only part of the members are free to be in Washington like you during the Fall campaign. But others of us, in fairness to our constituents and to all the nominees of our party, must be in our districts during the time.

"It is obviously unfair to us as members of the committee under these circumstances, particularly after it is under fire, that it should attempt to continue its hearings when we are unable to be present for determination of proper procedure, when we have to take responsibility for its ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ proceedings."

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