

12/5/39

Summary of information on activities and membership of
Dies Committee

Members:
DIES-

1. Member of KKK. Proof in possession of Crandall Mackay, 15th. & New York Ave. nw. Mackay is a devout Catholic and is to be approached through Father McGowan, of the National Catholic Welfare Guild, who is out of town until Friday. Upon his return to town McGowan will have before him a letter from Gardner Jackson setting forth the facts and requesting him to get them. (Starnes is also supposed to be a member of the Klan and this proof, also, is supposed to be in Mackay's possession.

2. Was supported in campaigns for office by John Henry Kirby, lumber magnate, etc., who also supported Gerald Winrod. Dies began an investigation of Winrod, sent an investigator out to get Winrod's stuff and suddenly and mysteriously called off the entire investigation. This was during the political campaign.

3. Dies father was divorced by his mother because of his infidelity. His enamorata, allegedly, was his secretary, and his adultery was committed in his office in the House Office Building, while he was a member of Congress. (There are rumors which probably can not be proved that Martin Dies is following in his dad's footsteps, the particular object of his affections in this case being Grace Boice, his secretary. The Dies divorce case, I am informed, was in Orange, Tex. Mrs. Dies (Martin's mother) is now in an insane asylum. I have been informed that it was her husband's inconstancy which unbalanced her. I do not know where she is.

4. Dies, an insurance co. report which I expect to have in my possession within a few days says, has no bank account in either Texas or Washington. He just recently bought an expensive home (\$12,000.00) on Hobart St., nw.

5. He was involved, through his law firm in Orange, in a "hot" oil case. This information is on file in the Dept. of Interior (which made a whitewash investigation) and I am attempting to get it.

6. Dies was also involved in difficulties with the Internal Revenue people, as a result of his failure or refusal to pay income tax totalling about \$900.00. I will have the facts on this in about a week. He has, I believe, just settled that claim.

7. I have a copy of an affidavit from NNU setting forth union-busting tactics, extreme physical violence, threats to life,

etc., by police in Beaumont, Tex., which is in Dies district and I am endeavoring to prove whether the police department or the chief or the prosecuting attorney (who also runs the dope and white-slave rackets) are Dies people and whether they are directly or indirectly beholden to him for their jobs.

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Dies and Bill Green are supposed to have made the following deal about 2 or 3 months ago: The Dies Committee smears the CIO. J.B. Matthews does the job and in return gets a permanent job with the AFL. Green, then, will personally support Dies in his next campaign for public office (In this connection it is interesting that the rumor that Dies is going to run for Tom Connally's Senate seat, which I heard for the first time about a month ago, ~~is~~ is coming to me now more frequently. Dies approached the N.Y. Herald Tribune (which editorially defended J.B. Matthews in it today's issue) for support in his presidential campaign and was turned down. Second hand from Starnes' campaign manager I have heard that Starnes is out for the Speaker's job. He previously let it be known that he would like to run for Senator from Ala. This is supposed to have earned him the ill will of both Bankheads).

Dies is collecting his speeches into a book or booklet which will be ready within a few weeks.

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J.P. Thomas-Feeney is still ~~xxxxxx~~ manager of the bond dept. of Paine, Webber & Co., and that company has a Van Sweringen-Morgan tieup which appears in the record of the Railroad Committee and is currently being checked. The firm was used as a dummy by the Van S.'s in their phoney manipulations.

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Thomas also kept the list of 35 or 40 pages of people who had gotten or had sent mail to the Silver Shirt out of the record, as revealed in the hearing of August 23. Every time the investigator came around to that list Thomas talked about something else. The Silver Shirt list does not appear in the record and is not available at the committee's office. The only Nazi list that has appeared is one of about 24 leaders whose names had already appeared in the public press. Consequently, Dies attack on Pres. Roosevelt over the radio is a complete and deliberate lie.

At least Vorhis and Starnes are not now personally friendly toward Dies. Dempsey ~~xxxxxx~~ has had fights with Thomas. Starnes and Vorhis have both criticized Dies to me.

Frank Murphey is angry with Dies and anxious to " get" him, I have been informed by reliable friends in the D. J.

Sullivan, who has been exposed as a labor spy, an anti-Semite and an anti-Catholic operator, also is and was at the time of his employment by Dies a direct or indirect Nazi agent. This information was in Dies possession at the time S.'s record was called to his attention and at the time Dies investigated the organization through which S. is an agent. In addition, Sullivan was employed by the Republican National Committee at a salary of \$300.00 a month during the 1936 campaign. He was engaged in collecting the scurrilous and slanderous smear stuff that was turned out, especially the anti-Semitic stuff. Dempsey fired Sullivan in Los Angeles and Sullivan was immediately rehired by Dies.

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Rhea Whitley, the ex-G-Man who "cooperated" with one of the most notorious anti-labor employer assns and labor-spy outfits, is ~~xxxx~~ married to the Canon Towel fortune.

A partial canvass of the members of the H of R shows that many of the conservative and reactionary members are, if put in ~~the~~ position not to suffer politically for it, anxious to vote against a further appropriation for the Committee either through a personal dislike for Dies or because they regard his conduct of the investigation as below the dignity of the House. Two members of the appropriations committee have promised to vote against an appropriation for him.

Jerry Vorhis has promised to make a radio speech late in December or early in January saying that he is opposed to a continuation of the committee on the grounds that it has a complete enough record and that if there is more to be done it is properly the province of the D.J.

The Dies inquiry can and will be shown to have consistently followed the course of trade-union activity and has smeared unions or their leaders consistently when those unions were either on strike, about to go on strike, faced with internal problems of importance in negotiating contracts.

Walter Steele, Dies first "specialist" witness on communism in trade unions and youth groups, etc., and the second important witness during the hearings (he followed John Frey) was at the time of his testimony, before and after it, the recipient of large sums of money from the Republican National Committee. These have been regular monthly payments. I have this proof, together with dates, amounts, check numbers, etc., in my possession. T.L. Harris, of the American League, has ~~xxxx~~ promised to give me an affidavit covering his conversation with Steele in which Steele bragged about the espionage network he had in the Philadelphia school system.

Dies Committee, by testimony in its own record by its own secretary, refused on "eight or ten" occasions to accept information from one who had in his possession first-hand information substantiated by documents, on the Silver Shirts. Dies several days ago appointed Jerry Vorhis chairman of a subcommittee to take testimony from William Dudley Pelley. Vorhis does not, I am informed, have the power to issue subpoenas or to take Silver Shirt testimony from anyone else.

Dies has failed to investigate Coughlin although Coughlin publicly offered to pay all the expenses of the investigation which he asked for.

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The Dies Committee has asked the financial secretary of the House not to make its last year and a half's expense statements public on the grounds that it would interfere with the investigation.

The examination of the committee's record to date reveals only two cases in which the committee can say that it afforded persons attacked in testimony an opportunity to appear and to defend themselves. In each of these cases more than a year had elapsed. In one case (Joe Curran) the witness was threatened with contempt proceedings because he attempted to volunteer testimony and he was not allowed to confront the evidence, which he demanded to do. In the other case, that of the American Youth Congress and the ASU, the real purpose, it is obvious from the hearings, was to ask questions and not to allow a defense.

The committee censors its record and does not allow witnesses the opportunity to see their testimony until after it has been frozen into zinc type, printed and circulated. Also, the committee prevents wide-spread distribution of its hearings.