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Form 2-C

IH WI 868 NL COLLECT
H CLEVELAND OHIO FEB 1 1939

VITO MARCANTONIO OF NY
CONGRESS OF THE US HOB WASHN DC

THIS IS IN REPLY TO YOUR TELEPHONED REQUEST AS TO MY ENCOUNTERS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DIES COMMITTEE. SOMETIME LAST SEPTEMBER ON MY DAY OFF I RECEIVED A WIRE AT MY HOME FROM JOHN C METCALFE WHO REPRESENTED HIMSELF AS BEING**NOT FROM THE DIES COMMITTEE**BUT FROM THE CHICAGO TIMES. I RECOGNIZED THE NAME AS THAT OF THE REPORTER WHO MADE THE EXPOSE AGAINST THE GERMAN-AMERICAN BUND. MR. METCALFE ASKED ME TO MEET HIM AT EIGHT THAT NIGHT AT HOTEL STATLER. I COMPLIED WITH HIS REQUEST. HE TOLD ME HE NOW WAS WITH THE DIES COMMITTEE, HAVING BEEN GIVEN AN INDEFINITE LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY HIS PAPER, AND THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN ARTICLE HE HAD READ IN KEN MAGAZINE WRITTEN BY ME, DEALING WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF A SO-CALLED ASSOCIATION OF LEAGUES AND ITS SECRETARY, SUSAN STERLING, WHO WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE ANTI-SEMITIC AND PRO-NAZI SILVER LEGION.

I INFORMED MR METCALFE MOST OF THE MATERIAL UNCOVERED BY ME HAD ALREADY APPEARED IN THE ARTICLE AND IN STORIES I HAD WRITTEN FOR THE CLEVELAND

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-2-

PRESS ON THE SAME SUBJECT. HE ASKED ME IF I WOULD BE WILLING TO TESTIFY ALONG THE LINES OF WHAT I HAD WRITTEN. I TOLD MR. METCALFE THAT I WAS CERTAINLY WILLING TO STAND BEHIND WHAT I HAD WRITTEN, BUT THAT I ALSO HAD NO PARTICULAR DESIRE TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE DIES COMMITTEE BECAUSE I DID NOT RESPECT EITHER ITS METHODS OR ITS MOTIVES.

I TOLD MR. METCALFE THAT IF HE WOULD REFER AGAIN TO THE ARTICLES IN QUESTION HE WOULD SEE MENTIONED THEREIN A MAGAZINE, THE NATIONAL REPUBLIC, AS A PUBLICATION WHICH NO SILVER SHIRT I INTERVIEWED HAD BEEN WITHOUT; IT WAS, NEXT TO THEIR VICIENT ANIMOSITY TOWARD THE JEWS PERHAPS THE MOST IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTIC OF THEM ALL. I TOLD HIM FURTHERMORE THAT THE CLEVELAND CORRESPONDENT OF THIS MAGAZINE MR. WALTER A KENNEDY, WAS ONE OF THE CLOSEST ASSOCIATES OF SUSAN STERLING AND THAT MISS STERLING ALSO ENJOYED THE MOST CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH WALTER STERLE OF WASHINGTON, THE MANAGING EDITOR OF THIS MAGAZINE.

I TOLD MR. METCALFE THAT IN SPITE OF ALL THIS ONE OF THE FIRST WITNESSES CALLED BY CONGRESSMAN DIES WAS THIS SAME WALTER STERLE, AND HE WAS PERMITTED TO RANT TO HIS HEART'S CONTENT AGAINST EVERYTHING DECENT AND

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-3-

PROGRESSIVE IN AMERICAN POLITICS AND LABOR--USING FOR HIS "EVIDENCE" JUST SUCH MATERIAL AS STERLING AND KENNEDY HAD FURNISHED HIM.

IN VIEW OF THIS, I TOLD MR METCALFE I HAD NO GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE DIES COMMITTEES DESIRE TO GET THE FACTS.

HE AGREED THE COMMITTEE HAD DONE MUCH WHICH HE DID NOT LIKE BUT STATED HE WAS HANDLING ONLY THE "ANTI NAZI END OF IT" AND THAT SO FAR HE HAD BEEN GIVEN A FREE HAND TO WORK AS HE PLEASED.

I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD NOT TESTIFY UNLESS SURPOENAED. HE SAID "I AM GOING TO ISSUE A SUBPEONA FOR YOU EARLY NEXT WEEK." INSTEAD OF A SUBPEONA HOWEVER, HE SENT A WIFE TO MY EDITOR ASKING IF IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR ME TO TESTIFY THE FOLLOWING DAY. THE EDITOR ASKED ME MY OWN FEELINGS AND I TOLD HIM WHAT I HAD ALREADY TOLD METCALFE, THAT I DID NOT RESPECT THE DIES COMMITTEE AND DID NOT WISH MY NAME TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH IT. THE EDITOR THEN TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD REPLY IN THE NEGATIVE TO MR. DIES.

THE COMMITTEE THEN CALLED ARNOLD GINGRICH, EDITOR OF KEN, WHO SUPPLIED THE COMMITTEE WITH NUMEROUS DOCUMENTS AND PAPERS WHICH I HAD TURNED OVER TO HIM. IT WAS ANNOUNCED AT THIS HEARING THAT I WOULD BE CALLED.

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-4-

SOME TIME LATER I WAS AGAIN INTERVIEWED BY MR METCALFE AND AGAIN TOLD HIM MY FEELINGS. I SUGGESTED THAT MISS BARBARA BAKER, WHO HAD ACTED AS SECRETARY TO SUSAN STERLING, WOULD MAKE A FAR BETTER WITNESS SINCE SHE HAD BEEN A PRINCIPAL IN THESE MATTERS, AND WAS READY AND WILLING TO TESTIFY. AS A RESULT HE SUBPOENAED MISS BAKER, WHO, HAVING NO MONEY FOR TRANSPORTATION, WIRED MR DIES A REQUEST FOR FARE TO WASHINGTON. SHE RECEIVED NO REPLY TO THE WIRE AND HEARD NOTHING MORE FROM THE DIES COMMITTEE OF ANY NATURE.

ON ARMISTICE DAY, CONGRESSMAN DIES CAME TO CLEVELAND AND MISS BAKER TOLD ME SHE HAD GONE TO SEE HIM TO FIND OUT WHAT SHE SHOULD DO ABOUT THE SUBPENA. SHE SAID HE TOLD HER A SUB COMMITTEE WOULD BE IN CLEVELAND SOON AND "OUR MR. HOWE WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU."

"MR. HOWE", WHOEVER HE MAY HAVE BEEN, NEVER GOT IN TOUCH WITH HER. HAROLD G. MOSIER, A LAMEDUCK CONGRESSMAN FROM OHIO, SUBSEQUENTLY HELD SECRET ~~XXXXX~~ ~~HEARINGS~~ HEARINGS AT THE HOTEL FOLLENDEN IN THE COURSE OF WHICH HE TELEPHONED GYPSY ROSE LEE AND INTERVIEWED WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AS TO THE MENACE OF "COMMUNISM" ON THE CAMPUS," BUT HE DID NOT CALL MISS BAKER.

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-5-

HAD MR DIES ACTUALLY WANTED TO INVESTIGATE THE ACTIVITIES OF SUSAN STERLING HE COULD HAVE FOUND NO BETTER SOURCE THAN THE FILES OF HIS OWN WITNESS, WALTER STEELE, TO WHOM SHE WROTE CONSTANTLY, CONFIDING TO HIM EVERYTHING THAT SHE WAS DOING TO HELP HIM IN "SENDING OUT VIBRATIONS OF TRUE AMERICANISM TO ALL THOSE EAGER FOR AUTHENTIC INFORMATION."

WM MILLER CLEVELAND PRESS

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