

SUBVERSIVE SUPPORT OF DIES COMMITTEE

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The Dies Committee is perhaps best characterized by the nature of its support. From the beginning, reactionary, anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi organizations have favored the Committee and have lobbied in behalf of its continuation.

These organizations were apparently tipped off at the start that they had nothing to worry about, for -- according to an article shortly to appear in the Princeton University "Public Opinion Quarterly" -- at a meeting of the American Patriots, a New York super-patriotic society, in June, 1938, a speaker told the audience that "the Dies Committee is a good committee" and that those present had nothing to fear from its activities. Among those present were a number of prominent anti-Semites and Nazi sympathizers.

Dies has been congratuled by Pelley of the Silver Shirts (Libertation, Jan. 21, 1939); by Winrod, the "Jayhawk Nazi"; and last week, according to the CIO News of Jan. 23, 1939, Dies received an "Americanism Award for 1938" from the Constitutional Educational League, Inc., an organization which publishes and distributes anti-labor pamphlets bought and paid for by big industrialists. One of its most widely distributed booklets is "Join the CIO and Build A Soviet America", of which more than 100,000 copies were sent out to workers in the steel industry at the expense of Tom Girdler. Testifying before the LaFollette Committee, one of the leaders of the outfit revealed a complete lack of knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, despite the fancy title he was operating under. It was revealed, however, that the organization's real function was to spread union-busting and strikebreaking propaganda, at the behest of the National Association of Manufacturers and its biggest members.



Fritz Kuhn's Nazi Bund has joined the pack of those demanding more funds for the Dies Committee. A recent issue of the Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter, ~~is~~ official organ of the Bund, is reported by the CIO News of the same date to have carried a front page editorial saying: "Mr. Dies' request (for more funds) should by all means be gratified".

This endorsement repeats an earlier one of James Wheeler-Hill, national secretary of the Bund, who is quoted by the N. Y. Times, Dec. 9, 1938, as telling newspapermen: ". . . of course we support Mr. Dies in his expose of communism".

Recent issues of the National Republic, Walter Steele's labor-baiting and anti-New Deal magazine, carry long editorials endorsing Dies and winding up with such typical appeals to its readers as this one from the January, 1939, issue: "(The Committee's) preliminary work has been masterfully done. . . The American people must come forth at once, openly and bravely, and demand that their Representatives in Congress . . . vote the Dies Committee an extended life and sufficient funds to enable it to finish, in a far-reaching manner, the job which it has ~~been~~ so well begun."

One of the most vociferous of Dies' supporters is the New York State Economic Council, Inc., whose Economic Council Letter of Jan. 20, 1939 lists the continuation of the Dies Committee as the "most important of all" the steps to be taken in order "to overthrow Public Enemy Number One", namely "the Federal Administration".

This is the organization whose guest of honor Dies was at a banquet at the Hotel Biltmore in New York on Dec. 8, 1938, attended by some of the nation's biggest and most reactionary industrialists along with a representative smattering of their chief stooges in propaganda and organization. Among the guests was James Wheeler-Hill, at whose



table sat Fritz Kuhn and a number of the other national leaders of the German-American Bund. Wheeler told newspapermen, in explanation of his presence, that "We have many friends in the council," and followed with his endorsement of Dies already quoted. (N.Y. Times, Dec. 9, 1938).

The N.Y. State Economic Council, Inc. will be remembered for its attack upon the Republican Party's November, 1938 campaign as not being conservative enough in the state of New York. After the elections it came out with a demand for the removal of Kenneth Simpson, Republican leader, for his alliance with such "Red" forces as Mayor La Guardia. The organization carries on a steady stream of attacks against the New Deal as "communistic"; it demands that "Communist-controlled 'relief' must be purged"; brands the Wagner Act as "alien and communist", "part of a foreign-born scheme to destroy America".

Finally, in its letter of Jan. 20, it reveals its hand fully with the remark: "The forces back of the demand for the Wagner Acts, and back of the enforcement of the federal act . . . are, we believe, the forces that Martin Dies has been investigating down in Washington".

It is no wonder that the N.Y.S.E.C., organized and led by people like Merwin K. Hart who urge violence against the Roosevelt Administration, is strongly behind the anti-New Deal activity of Dies and his committee.

Dies' most recent appearance before subversive groups was on Jan. 25, 1939 when he spoke before the convention of the American Coalition in Washington and attacked the New Deal, though not by name, by linking its liberalism with Communism, charging that both advocated "the same principle . . . the creation of an all-powerful state".

He continued his attack on New Deal agencies by repeating provenly false charges of communism against officials of the Wage and Hour Board and the N.L.R.B.