

12/6/40

Dear Allen,

I have just finished several hours of ~~intensive~~ consultation with my lawyers who have strongly recommended against my being connected with any story of this description until at least after the pending trial of David Mayne.

Believe me, I'm sorry, particularly because I've put you and Sassaman to trouble. However, after the lawyers discussed the effect of this kind of an article on the trial- now tentatively scheduled for next month - it now seems eminently desirable that I follow their advice.

In the event you are still interested in this kind of a story maybe we can talk later about the documentation.

Will you please tell Walter I'm sorry, and that I'll talk to him when he returns.

If I can be of any assistance to ~~you~~ you in the future, I'll be glad to do what I can. Next time I'm in New York I'll stop in and tell you all about it.

Appologetically,

Harold Weisberg

Walter. This report of sabotage in the aircraft industry is an FBI document, not from the files of the Dies committee, although the same data was presented to it. You can use it for a photograph, identifying it as an FBI report, but not disclosing the name of Cohee or his identity. The FBI has taken no action, except to reveal, in a statement by Jackson red-baiting the union during the Vultee strike, that it had conducted further investigations in the aircraft industry. The attack on the union made no mention of the real situation within the industry.

Excerpt from statement of Harry Bridges about unsuccessful efforts of union to get the Dies committee and the Federal government to take action on Nazis and sabotage in the aircraft industry on the west coast

Edward James Smythe, anti-semitic and Catholic hater, was subpoenaed to appear before the committee on August 29, 1939. He didn't. Instead of citing Smythe for contempt Dies revealed he had Smythe's files, which clearly showed his activities and associates. Smythe, said Dies, "of course, is just a racketeer." Expressing great solicitude for Smythe's financiers and associates-- "substantial" and "prominent people"--Dies suppressed these important documents. A list of
/Smythe's correspondents reads like the bluebook of American fascism.

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Typical of the Dies headline-grabbing technique is ~~the~~ claim that he "exposed" the Christian Front. Actually he refuses to call the Front before his committee and has announced publicly he will not investigate the Front's boss, Father Coughlin. Dies' pal, Merwin K. Hart, president of the New York State Economic Council, Franco agent and Park Avenue "fellow traveller" of the Christian Front, threw a "Mass Meeting For America" in Madison Square Garden on November 29, 1939, at which Dies was guest of honor. The Front packed the meeting, distributing tickets free, while others paid admissions. The program shows prominent fascists as speakers and sponsors. On December 8, 1939, Dies was guest of honor at a Council luncheon and was applauded by fellow-guests Fritz Kahn and James Wheeler-Hill of the Bund. On January 28, 1939, Dies and Hart addressed the convention of the anti-democratic American Coalition of Patriotic Societies. Hart made an impassioned plea for support of Franco and Dies attacked the Federal Government for investigating his income-tax delinquencies.

William F. "Red" Hynes is known for his anti-labor work for the Los Angeles Police Department and California open-shoppers and Associated Farmers. The Dies committee knows of his relations with fascist organizations. Hynes has had connections with axis espionage services. But he worked for the committee in July 1938 and was paid by Dies with check no. 6833. Above are excerpts from a copy of Hynes' expense accounts.

Note. Jack Spivak has photostats of letters to Hynes by ~~King~~Jap and Italian counselor officials. Some were used in Ken, issues of July 13 or 20, 1939.

After six months of hiding Silver-Shirter Pelley emerged on February 6, 1940, to give Dies "a clean bill of health." Snuggling to the committee's bosom, Pelley praised the members as "fine, Christian gentlemen", showed similarity of objectives, and promised to disband his vigilantes "if the Dies committee goes ahead". Thanks to the committee's activity, he said, "My work is done." All the exhibits used during this love-fest had been printed and distributed by Pelley! Still carefully locked in committee files is a 40-page typewritten list of Pelley's correspondents, prepared by the Post Office Department. While loudly proclaiming the ^{publication} ~~existence~~ of this list--even assailing President Roosevelt on this basis-- Dies steadfastly refuses to release it. The committee sent Pelley four warnings in advance of its intention of sub-^{his} ~~the~~ penning him, giving him ample time to disappear. Days after ~~the~~ ^{his} ~~committee~~ "expected" appearance, a subpoena still had not been issued.

Copy of expense account of Investigator John C. Metcalfe showing
meeting with Nazi agent on August 31, 1938, in Chicago. Dies approved this
account, paid it with check no. 8558 on September 30, 1938, ^{real} No/Nazi agents
has testified before the Dies committee

From his own mouth comes Dies' attitude toward Jewish people. This is a page from the testimony of Henry D. Allen, notorious California anti-semite. For two days Allen had packed the record with his filth, referring to "Jew-Communists" 46 times. In this testimony Dies referred to Jewry as another "international". If Congressman Noah Mason was trying to refute Allen, Dies, by summarily ending the hearing, prevented this. The excerpt is from the hearing of August 22, 1939, volume 6, p. 4044.