

Hon. MARTIN DIES

Address delivered at

the meeting of the

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

NEW YORK CHAPTER

at the Hotel Plaza

January 19th, 1939

The meeting was sponsored by the New York Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, with the cooperation of the following patriotic societies:

New York State Society of the Cincinnati
Saint Nicholas Society
Sons of the Revolution, in the State of N. Y.
Holland Society of New York
Society of Colonial Wars
Society of Mayflower Descendants
N. Y. Society Order of the Founders & Patriots of America
New England Society
Military Order of the World War
Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the U. S.
New York Southern Society
Military Order of Foreign Wars of the U. S.
New York Society Naval & Military Officers of the World War
Daughters of the American Revolution

Chapters

Manhattan	Golden Hill
Washington Heights	New York
Mary Murray	Keskeskick
Darling Whitney	Rufus King
Mary Washington Colonial	Ft. Greene
Ellen Hardin Walworth	Col. Aaron Ogden
Elizabeth Annesley Lewis	Harvey Birch
General Nathaniel Woodhull	Knickerbocker
John Jay	Jonas Bronck
Fort Washington	Tarrytown
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Long Island Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution
New England Women, Brooklyn Colony
Daughters of the Founders & Patriots of America
American Defense Society
Clearing House for National Interests
Daughters of the Cincinnati
Allied Patriotic Societies
America's Good Will Union
Suffolk County, New England Women
Daughters of Holland Dames
Colonial Daughters of the 17th Century
Daughters of St. George
Order of the Crusaders
Colonial Dames of America
Daughters of the American Colonists
Daughters of St. George, Gloria Lodge
Dames of the Loyal Legion
New York State Society Daughters of the Revolution
Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence

HON. MARTIN DIES

was introduced by

HON. LAURENS M. HAMILTON

President of the New York Chapter

Sons of the American Revolution

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Ladies and gentlemen: Now we who are present, the members of the Sons of the American Revolution and at least sixty other patriotic societies, are joined by the hundreds of thousands from coast to coast who are not present, but who will be listening, through the courtesies of the Mutual Broadcasting System to the speech of the evening.

Before introducing the speaker, whom you are waiting to hear, I wish to suggest to you something which you, as citizens, might do.

If, after hearing Congressman Dies, you, as individuals, are convinced of the importance of the work that he is trying to carry on, I would suggest that each of you, as an individual, resort to the traditional American way of communicating with your government and that each of you write to your own Congressmen — not to Congressman Dies, he gets plenty of letters, but he has only one vote — but to your Congressman, be he Republican, be he Democrat; and advise your own Congressmen of the interest you have in maintaining such work.

Please note that I said "advise" them. Don't order them perfunctorily to vote for this or that. That doesn't help with legislators. But if you suggest to them that you, as an American citizen, are interested in learning more about these various things which seem to you to be undermining the American tradition of government, you can then hope that your Congressmen will vote for the request for the continuation of the Dies Committee and the increase of its appropriation — in this case to be \$150,000.

And now, I have not only the honor but the very distinct pleasure of introducing to you — both you who are present and you who are listening in over the air — the modern Sir Galahad of American patriotism — Congressman Martin Dies of Texas.

FELLOW AMERICANS: I deeply appreciate the presence of so many loyal, patriotic American citizens tonight. I also wish to acknowledge with gratitude the presence upon the platform of the representatives of some fifty outstanding patriotic organizations and societies.

I fear that we fail to appreciate the wonderful work that is carried on by patriotic organizations and societies. We do not realize the tremendous difficulties which confront them, and yet they are performing an invaluable service to the cause of the perpetuation of free government in the United States.

I also wish to express my gratitude to the Mutual Broadcasting System for their kindness in permitting me to have the opportunity to discuss with the unseen audience this subject, which is near and dear to the heart of every patriotic American citizen. I likewise wish to express my appreciation to the thousands of people who are writing me every day. I wish that it were possible to acknowledge personally every letter that I am receiving from every section of the country. I wish that I had the physical endurance to accept all of the numerous invitations that have been so kindly and generously extended to me.

However, of one thing I am convinced, and that is that we are on the verge of the greatest revival of patriotism in the United States that has been witnessed in many years. I have had occasion to make three speeches yesterday, and I never saw such large, enthusiastic audiences in all my life. It demonstrates conclusively that the people of the United States will not permit the structure of this government to be changed by foreign intrigue or violence.

It is trite, but eternally true, that Americanism is a spiritual concept of man. It is the recognition of the eternal truth that the fundamental rights of man came from God and not from governments or societies. I have therefore said that Americanism is distinguished from all pagan philosophies, because, fundamentally, it recognizes the existence of an Almighty God and the fact that mankind has certain inherent and inalienable rights which came to him as gifts from that God. Among those inalienable rights — may I restate them — are freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of assemblage, freedom of worship, the right to work at such occupations as one's training and experience may enable him to secure and to hold,

ON FEBRUARY 3rd, CONGRESS VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY TO CONTINUE THE DIES COMMITTEE WITH MARTIN DIES AS CHAIRMAN.

and the right to enjoy the fruits of one's labor, which means property rights. Those are the chief characteristics, or rather the chief rights, that man derived from his Creator.

Therefore, my friends, Americanism is intimately associated with religion. It is spiritual in conception and is wholly different from the pagan philosophies that are designated by such names as "Nazism," "Fascism," and "Communism." I have therefore said that the struggle which exists in the United States today is between Christian Americanism on the one hand and Stateism on the other. (Applause)

When I say "Stateism," I mean this philosophy of government which exalts the state above the individual, this philosophy of government which would make a puppet of the individual, make him a slave of the state. It is as old as history. It was to escape from an intolerable tyranny, based upon this pagan philosophy, that our forefathers braved the dangers of the trackless wilderness and laid deep and strong the institutions of freedom. They were not seeking economic security. They came to this continent in order that, as individuals, they might enjoy the fundamental rights which came to them from their Maker.

Prior to the revolutionary doctrine uttered by our forefathers in the Declaration of Independence, to the effect that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inherent and inalienable rights — prior to that revolutionary doctrine, the rights our English ancestors secured were in the form of concessions from the king.

Never had it been recognized that the individual, as such, had certain fundamental rights which no government and no majority can ever legally and lawfully take away from him. (Applause) I desire to make that very clear because what is happening in Europe today is this old, distorted, fallacy that the State should be supreme; that mankind should be regimented under some system of planned economy; that mankind should be a mere cog in the machine of the State. It was against that damnable doctrine that our fathers were willing to shed their blood on every battlefield of the Republic; and it is to preserve the dignity, the rights of the individual, that we as American citizens must be prepared to wage battle.

So, my friends, all of these pagan philosophies, whether they be classified or designated as Communism, Fascism or Nazism,

all constitute forms of dictatorship. They have the same underlying principles. Hitler said, "The State can do no wrong." Mussolini declared, "Everything for the State, nothing against the State and nothing outside the State." That expressed the underlying philosophy of Communism, which is based upon the materialistic conceptions of mankind and his place in the universe.

When the devotees of Lenin make their annual pilgrimage to the tomb of Lenin, when they do homage to the cold and lifeless body of the dictator who has been dead these many years, they symbolize the spirit and the philosophy of their belief, for they are wedded to the earth. But Americanism, thank God, is spiritual belief, belief in the existence, the wisdom and the directing genius of an all-powerful providence which regulates the lives and the destinies of mankind and of nations. (Applause)

When I behold men condemn Nazism and Fascism and yet advocate the same underlying principle, when I hear men in public office take the stump or the rostrum and denounce Adolf Hitler or Mussolini, and yet they themselves advocate this old Tory principle of an exalted all-powerful State — when I see that inconsistency, I am reminded of one of the great events in history, when the Whigs changed positions with the Tories under George, when the Whigs became the advocates of a strongly centralized government.

I am reminded of the fact that those who call themselves liberals have so far forgotten what liberalism is that they are, in effect, advocating the same philosophy of government that Adolf Hitler has put in effect in Germany, that Mussolini has put in effect in Italy, and that Stalin has put in effect in all Russia. (Applause)

My friends, Americanism is challenged by the intolerant ideologies of Europe. The foreign ideas, based upon this era, this idea that the State should be all-powerful, has been transplanted to American shores. Foreign nations have evolved new methods of undeclared war. Now they first penetrate a country with their propaganda machines and they seek to build up sympathetic blocs and groups. Soviet Russia excels in the art of propaganda as no other country on the face of the earth. It is true that in Russia you are compelled today to pay \$1.87 a pound for steak; it's true that you have to pay \$1.56 a pound

for butter, but notwithstanding that Russia is the greatest propagandizing agency the world has ever seen, and she sent to the United States her agents and her agencies for the purpose of building up in this country sympathetic blocs; first, to change the structure of the American system by intrigue, by stealth, by deception, by hypocrisy, and, second, to induce the United States to enlist in any war in which Russia might be confronted with a superior army.

We received a warning in 1924, when John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers filed a document known as Senate Document No. 14, and when Mr. Lewis warned the American people that the Communists had sent \$1,110,000 to the United States by way of Canada for the purpose of converting strikes into a revolutionary movement. Even then the United Mine Workers warned the American people what the Communists were doing to concentrate their efforts and their propaganda upon the American labor movement. We therefore had ample warning from one of the outstanding labor figures even in that day and time.

But we need not rest our case on that alone, for we have numerous documents and unimpeachable evidence from the Communist leaders themselves, where they plan the whole strategy of penetrating labor movements in the United States, of seizing strategic positions and of converting the labor unions into instrumentalities of class warfare.

How was that carried out? No man can deny the fact that in the heavy industries there was a lack of trained organizers and officials. The Communists, acting on instructions from Moscow, took advantage of the situation that existed. They seized strategic positions in those unions. Although they comprised a tightly organized minority, they were able to outmaneuver an unorganized majority.

Upon whose testimony do we rely? We rely upon the testimony of officials and bona fide members in the C.I.O., men like McCourtney, Martin and others that I could name. But we need not alone rely upon their testimony; we have the documentary proof of numerous organizers and officials who were admitted and outstanding Communists.

So, my friends, in keeping with the plans that were enunciated from Moscow, they seized control of the labor movement

on the West Coast. They were able to paralyze all industry on the West Coast; ships rotting in the harbors; the whole industrial system paralyzed, at a standstill. One Communist alien was able to defy the United States and to successfully resist deportation. I say this, as I shall in every speech that I make, that it is a national disgrace and a stain upon the honor and integrity of this Republic that any alien, however strongly intrenched he may be on account of political prestige and influence, would be able to defy the laws of the land, to remain on American shores, to direct operations for the purpose of paralyzing industries and of producing revolution in the United States. Their strategy was so successful on the West Coast that the total loss to industry and labor cannot be calculated. It runs into the millions of dollars.

Then, in the automobile and in the steel industries, the plan was to pursue the same strategy, to seize control of the unions in the same manner, to employ the sit-down strike in order that they could quickly paralyze industry and produce revolution. In the automobile and steel industries, according to the testimony of officials in the union, a tightly organized group of Communists, well-placed in each of the unions, were able to do what? They were able to seize control of the unions by parliamentary devices, by a fanatical zeal. By unison and harmony in their work, they were able to completely outgeneral the majority of laboring people who were unaccustomed to parliamentary procedure, with the consequence that hundreds of unauthorized strikes and sit-down strikes occurred in the key cities and industries throughout the country.

It is a disgrace to America and to American statesmanship that, at a time when well-known Communists were directing sit-down strikes, at a time when men like Joseph Kowalski, Harry Bridges, and a host of others that I could name — not even citizens of this country — they were nevertheless able to seize control of other people's property and prevent men from going to work when they earnestly desired to do so. They were even able to defy the orders of legitimate unions at a time like that. It will ever be a disgrace that public officials lacked the courage, the statesmanship and the love of country to denounce plainly and unmistakably what was no more nor less than mob violence in the United States. (Applause)

Now, let me make myself publicly clear. The evidence is conclusive that the overwhelming majority of the laboring

people, both organized and unorganized, are loyal, patriotic American citizens. (Applause) The intelligent and thoughtful laboring man must surely realize that he has more at stake in the preservation of Americanism than any other group in our economic or social life.

Who were the heaviest losers when Adolf Hitler was able to win the people away from their Republican institutions? Who were the heaviest losers when that eloquent propagandist, Hitler, was able to convince the masses of the people that if they would surrender their liberties he would give them social justice and economic security? The heaviest losers in Germany were the laboring people. Where were the strikers? Where do you see the independence that once characterized them? They had been converted into puppets of the State; they had lost their identity; they had become merely cogs in the great war machine of Hitler.

In Russia, who were the heaviest losers when the Communist regime was established? The laboring people. I read only yesterday that when a sit-down strike was called in one of the aviation factories, the army was called out, and with fixed bayonets ejected the sit-down strikers and placed 500 of them in concentration camps.

So I say — and I wish to appeal to the laboring people of this country — this is your America. You have more at stake in the preservation of the Constitution, with an independent Congress, with an untrammelled judiciary and with a fair and impartial Executive. You and your children stand to lose the greatest if this Republic is destroyed and if, in the place of it, some form of regimentation, some Tory government, some modified Nazism or Communism is substituted for this government that was divinely inspired and founded upon eternal truth. (Applause)

But they did not stop with the infiltration of labor unions. They set up their own front organizations in the United States for the purpose of deceiving many well-intentioned people. They established the American League Against War and Fascism, which was established in many Democratic countries. They claim a membership of 4,400,000.

When they had their convention in Washington recently, at which convention they denied that they were a Communist

front organization, there was a test. A veteran offered a resolution condemning Communism, and they almost had a riot. They had spent days condemning Fascism and Nazism, but when the acid test came, when they were called upon to go on record in opposition to the most ruthless tyranny, the most cold and lifeless form of materialism the world has ever seen; that convention, representing many loyal and patriotic Americans who are members of the League because they do not realize that it is controlled by Communists in order to further the cause of Communism, disseminate class hatred and prepare this country for the bloody revolution which converted Russia into a land of suffering and despair, proved that it was Communistic.

They not only set up the American League, but they likewise established the International Labor Defense, The International Workers' Order, The American Student Union, the National Negro Congress and The Friends of the Soviet Union, together with other organizations, for the purpose of extending their influence beyond the circle of their own immediate activity.

The Communist program has never called for large numbers. Their influence must be measured by their ability to influence other organizations and other groups who have many times the membership that the Communist Party claims. Herein lies the genius of the Communist strategy—their ability to associate themselves with all liberal groups, to convince people in the United States that they represent some Democratic country. By their ceaseless and tireless work and propagandizing, they are able to exert tremendous influence within those organizations.

I issue a challenge to every so-called liberal organization and individual in this country. In the first place, when you say you are a liberal, I want to know what kind of liberalism you believe in. Do you believe in a strongly centralized government? Do you believe in vesting all power and all control in Washington? Would you imitate the Nazis in Germany or the Fascists in Italy? Would you build in America an all-powerful State that will swallow up the rights of the individual and convert him into the hopeless, despairing, unimportant position that he occupies in Germany and in Russia?

My friends, not only did they seek to permeate other organizations in the United States, but they penetrated the government itself. Can any one deny that in your Federal Writers'

Project in the City of New York, that 103 out of 300 of the writers were admitted Communists? They were Communists, and the fact was established so conclusively by their own signature that they could never deny it. And yet they had concentrated on that project for what purpose? For the purpose of disseminating class hatred through government publications.

When our committee seized the galley proofs of the State guides, we were amazed to find that all through those government publications there was a consistent propaganda arraying class against class and infusing the poison of hatred in the blood stream of the nation.

My friends, their purpose was to penetrate the government itself, and they certainly succeeded. Can any one deny that David J. Saposs is either a Communist or a Communist sympathizer. By his own statements, he subscribed to the principles of Communism. When that was made public, J. Warren Madden came out in public defense of David J. Saposs.

When we published the statement of Paul Sifton, who was the Assistant Administrator under Andrews in the Wage and Hour Division, a statement in which he himself condemns the capitalistic system; I raised what I conceded to be a paramount issue in America: Has any man the right to occupy a government position, paid with the taxpayers' money, money of loyal and patriotic American citizens, when that individual does not even believe in the kind of government for which he works? (Applause)

What the Communists undertook to do so cleverly in the United States, the Nazis and the Fascists imitated. We all know that Nazi Germany was able to penetrate the Saar, Czechoslovakia and Austria with her propaganda machines and to build up minority blocs within those countries. During all the time that the Nazis were weakening Czechoslovakia by their propaganda machines, Konrad Henlein affirmed his allegiance to Czechoslovakia. Yet when the propitious moment came, he unmasked himself and came out as a foe of the country to which he owed his allegiance.

What Germany successfully did in Czechoslovakia, in the Saar and in Austria, she hoped to accomplish in the United States. Consequently, she undertook to influence certain people of German descent, in America, in an effort to use them as the

friends of New Germany in this country, to build up the prestige and the influence of the Nazi Party in America. But it must be said to the everlasting credit of the people of German descent in America that the overwhelming majority of them proved that they are loyal, patriotic Americans, and they resented this effort that Hitler sought to alienate their affections and their allegiance to the Stars and Stripes. (Applause)

My friends, contrary to the propaganda that is being clearly spread throughout this country, I do not fear the invasion of this country by foreign armies. Thank God that He has separated us by 3,500 miles. We have the manpower and resources unequalled by any country on the face of the earth. I therefore do not believe that any nation would be so foolish and so short-sighted as to undertake an invasion of the United States; but I do have a very definite fear that this country is being invaded by foreign ideas.

From whence comes this new theory of government, this eternal clamor that the government should support all of the people, this cry from morning, noon and night for economic security? Let me warn you, my fellow country men, with all of the sincerity in my heart, that if it comes to a choice between liberty and economic security, if the time should ever come when I must say whether I will retain my freedom, my dignity, my fundamental rights as an American or whether I shall surrender them for the alluring promise of economic security; I know what my choice would be.

I do not concede, mind you, that totalitarian States can promote the security of the people as efficiently as Democratic governments. But if it be true that dictatorial governments, which regulate the lives and happiness of the people, can guarantee a fuller measure of material comforts and benefits than a Democracy; still I would rather live in poverty; I would rather dress in rags; I would rather be the poorest man in America and yet be able to get up in the morning and to see the rising sun as it sheds its light upon my face, be able to say, "Thank God I am a free man." (Applause)

So I do not believe that this country is in any danger of a foreign conquest. I realize that we are now being victimized by a bombardment of propaganda unparalleled in the history of this country. I realize that Soviet Russia is desperately striving through her agent, the Communist Party; and I defy them to

deny that they will be agents of the Third International. I defy any fair-minded citizen to read the report, the unanimous report of our committee, to read the record of our hearings and then to deny that under their own statements, their own publications, the Communist Party is no more nor no less than the agency of Soviet Russia in the United States.

Since the Department of Justice has finally taken jurisdiction of this question, I am awaiting expectantly and breathlessly for the word from Washington that the Communist Party has been indicted and will be tried before a jury for failure to register under the Registration Act requiring all agents of foreign principles to register.

Let us not be deceived by this foreign propaganda. I believe in maintaining the honor and integrity of this country as much as any living man; but let me warn you, my fellow countrymen, that if we be wise, if we have profited even to a small extent from the tragic lessons of the late war, if we be men worthy of preserving this corner of freedom, let us in the name of God and for the sake of our children stay on our own shores, mind our own business, and work out our own salvation.

In my humble judgment, we have our hands full in the difficult task of preserving representative Democracy in the United States. Oh, I know that some of the clever newspaper columnists ridicule everything that pertains to the great, fundamental principles of life and of eternity. I have read their scoffing, their malicious ridicule in the newspapers. I am not ashamed of the fact that I am an old-fashioned American, that I still believe that there is a God in the heavens; and I still believe that the men who assembled to write the Constitution were the wisest group of men who ever assembled under the sky, and that they gave to us the greatest system of Constitutional Democracy the world has ever seen since the beginning of time. (Applause)

My friends, the American people, as I said a few moments ago, are on the verge of a great revival of patriotism. Let us launch a crusade; let us call upon people of every creed, of every race, of every social and economic condition to join with us in teaching the people of this country what it means to be an American, in preserving those priceless privileges and rights which came to us as the result of the sacrifice and the blood of our heroic ancestors.

We do not own these rights; they do not belong to us. We merely hold them in trust for our children and for future generations. If we be honest men and women, we will preserve those rights and those institutions and transmit them to our children as pure and unadulterated and unimpaired as they were handed to us from the dying clasp of the bravest lot of men who ever undertook the experiment of self-government since the world began.

My friends, this country needs more than ever before men who will serve the truth, who will talk earnestly. We are guilty of loose thinking. I sometimes believe that phrase-makers are more dangerous than war-makers, that men who can devise cunning phrases that separate our population into hostile camps, do infinitely more harm to the peace and the happiness of the people than anyone else.

I say to you there is but one issue facing the American people, and you cannot laugh it off. You cannot laugh it off, for in the countrysides, in the villages and hamlets of America, where men and women still believe in a God and worshipping on their bended knees, in the firesides of the country; there are millions of Americans who love this country, who believe in it and who, if need be, would be willing to die to preserve it.

