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PRESIDENT CRYPTIC IN DISCUSSING DIES

He Tells Press Conference Re-
lease of Attack on Consumer
Groups Speaks for Itself

MONTGOMERY HITS REPORT

Defends Magazine Advertising
Inquiry and Accuses Chairman
of Red-Herring Tactics

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12—President Roosevelt told his press conference today that the action of a one-man subcommittee of the House Committee on Un-American Activities Sunday in releasing a statement of its investigator, J. B. Matthews, branding thirteen consumer organizations as "Communist transmission belts" was one that spoke for itself.

Mr. Roosevelt said that as he understood the committee action, from the newspaper reports on it and the criticisms of it by Representative Voorhis, a committee member, Chairman Dies appointed himself as the one-man subcommittee, received the report of Mr. Matthews and directed that it be published.

He added that he had heard from several persons about the Matthews report, but did not elaborate.

A "Communist transmission belt," according to Earl Browder, Communist party head, during whose testimony the term first came into the committee hearings, is any organization from a church to a labor union which Communists join to spread their views, usually keeping secret their party affiliations.

Donald E. Montgomery, consumers' counsel of the Department of Agriculture, today denied charges in the report that he was an aid of these alleged Communist-dominated organizations.

He was accused in the Matthews report of an "attack" on advertising through an investigation by his agency of Good Housekeeping Magazine, whose advertising practices are now under investigation by the Federal Trade Commission. His statement said:

"Mr. Matthews has attempted to make the committee and the public believe that my office investigated Good Housekeeping Magazine for the purpose of official action against it. That is false.

"On Aug. 17 the Federal Trade Commission issued a complaint against the alleged practices of that magazine. No one in my organization has had any connection whatever with the preparation or prosecution of that case. Since Aug. 17, however, I have been aware of charges by representatives of Hearst Magazines, Inc., that the difficulties it has encountered under the law are due to me and some of the consumer organizations.

"Apparently Mr. Dies has lent his support to an effort to make the consumer movement a red herring to divert public interest from the specific issues in that case. The whole effect is in the direction of pulling Mr. Hearst's chestnuts out of the fire.

"The consumer organizations will speak for themselves if given opportunity. Many consumer leaders and organizations have long been critical of specific advertising practices, but do not attack advertising as a necessary business institution. Many business men and trade associations have done the same. Better business bureaus in many cities have long been striving to make advertising more effective by cleaning up falsehoods and deception.

"Are they Communists too? I do not believe this attempt to picture the consumer movement as a threat to American institutions will get by with the people of this country."