

Dispute Matthews On Red Charges

Consumers Deny Link to Party

Officials of the Consumers' Union, the Milk Consumers' Protective Committee and the League of Women Shoppers today issued denials that their organizations were organized or dominated by Communists or in any way connected with the Communist party.

Arthur Kallet, director of Consumers' Union, pointed out that J. B. Matthews, research director for the Dies Committee, is former president of Consumers' Research, a competitor of Consumers' Union. Other spokesmen asserted that Mr. Matthews was retaliating against individuals who supported a strike at Consumers' Research in 1935.

Kallet Responds.

"We cannot believe," Mr. Kallet said, "that making comparative tests of consumers' goods and reporting the test findings, which is the work we do, is in any way subversive or destructive. Mr. Matthews can find in our publications numerous objections to specific claims made by advertisers, when these claims are at variance with the facts as disclosed by our chemists and engineers, but he cannot find any general attacks upon advertising."

Susan Jenkins, a director of the Milk Consumers Committee, described herself as a former employe of Mr. Matthews and charged that "the most shocking aspect of Mr. Matthews' statement is the use that he makes of his present ability to get publicity to injure those who have come in conflict with him in the past."

She denied that the objective of the consumer movement "with which I am connected" was to destroy the private profit system, and charged that Matthews, an official of Consumers' Research, had planned a National Consumers Party.

Ignored Requests.

Mrs. Sophia Ames Boyer, president of the National League of Women's Shoppers, charged that Mr. Dies had ignored several requests from the league to send representa-

tives to his committee to testify directly.

"Instead," Mrs. Boyer said, "he now permits to be made public the ridiculously untrue and unsubstantiated attack of Mr. J. B. Matthews. The only knowledge that Mr. Matthews has of the league dates back to 1935 when the league supported his striking employees at Consumers Research. Evidently we were effective enough in so doing to draw this retaliation now from Mr. Matthews."

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