

PW

# Labor Is Dies Target, Says C. U. Official

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17.— There's nothing that Mildred Edie, small and energetic director of Western Consumers Union, likes as much as a good fight. Only she's partial to fighting fair. Consequently she has nothing but scorn for the methods employed this week by the Dies Committee in their roundabout raid on the American leader which was conducted by way of their sensational witch hunting among the honest consumer groups in this country. Consumers Union is one of the groups that came in for the familiar brand of Dies smearing.

"Dies showed his hand much too clearly in this investigation," says Miss Edie. "Only those consumer groups were attacked that have taken a definitely pro-labor stand. And Dies, with his eye on the 1940 elections, and a possible candidacy for himself, has climbed right on the bandwagon. This latest red herring of his is very apparently an effort to curry favor with big business and consequently to line up some financial support for his possible campaign."

Miss Edie commended Donald Montgomery of the Consumers Council of the Department of Agriculture for his statement in answer to the Dies attack. "Mr. Montgomery clarified the whole issue when he pointed out that one of the ostensible purposes in back of the attack on consumers groups was to pull Hearst's chestnuts out of the fire."

## 'Wholly False'

12/18/39

Dr. Robert A. Brady, professor of economics at the University of California and chairman of the council of Western Consumers Union, has this to say about the Dies consumer report:

"The Dies Committee's report on consumer activities and organizations was not the result of any investigation whatsoever. To characterize such organizations as Western Consumers Union as Communist plots, or as Communist controlled, is to make statements wholly false. In light of the untimely issuance of such misinformation, and in light of the fact that this so-called report is nothing more than the opinion of one man, Mr. J. B. Matthews, formerly an officer of a competitive consumer agency, the prestige of the Dies Committee as an agency of the Federal government is seriously damaged.

"We cannot believe that making comparative test of consumer goods and reporting the test findings, which is the work we do, is in any way subversive or destructive. We are but furnishing the ultimate consumers with the same kind of buying information held indispensable by every well conducted business in its own buying."