

'Strange Things' In Capital Still Shock Martin Dies 10/24/41

New Orleans News Item By Booten Herndon

After four years of investigations into subversive activities in America, Congressman Martin Dies can still be shocked.

"It was when I talked to the wife of a high government official," the Texas congressman said here today.

"She was the most ardent pro-Nazi I have ever talked to. Everything in Nazism—anti-Semitism, dictatorship, Hitler—she was for. And I wondered if her husband was affected by her. Strange things happen in Washington."

In an address at the closing session of the National Selected Morticians at the Roosevelt hotel, he stressed citizenship, and asserted that there were several Communists in the employ of the United States government.

"The future of America is what we of America vigilant, active and alert wish, with the aid of God to make it," he declared.

The congressman also spoke before the national defense committee of the Association of Commerce at noon at La Louisiane. Arthur de la Houssaye is chairman of the committee.

"American people care more for baseball or movies than for good government," he said. "So they'll let the wool be pulled over their eyes by Trojan horse organizations, they'll elect the man that makes the most promises or organizes the largest hill-billy band. And this indifference is what we have to fear."

Fears Inflation

Another danger, he said, is inflation. "History shows that all revolutions have come during inflationary periods," he said. "That's when the price of necessities is far over wages."

Congressman Dies' revelation of his biggest shock came out of a discussion of the isolationists, led by Senator Burton Wheeler and Charles A. Lindbergh. First saying he believed them to be sincere in their beliefs, and, no matter what happens, their right to freedom of speech must not be impeded, he then amended:

"But after four years of investigations, I've learned that we must acknowledge nothing, accept nothing, and investigate with an open mind."

Congressman Dies does not favor all-out aid to Russia—as a matter of fact, he deems it impossible. "We may say we'll help them," he said, "but we couldn't if we wanted to. We haven't got anything to help them with. And I don't accept the lesser-of-two-evils theory. If Russia wins, we'll be in just as bad a spot as if Hitler wins. They're both ruthless dictatorships."

He dismissed the Japanese with a wave of the hand. "Just a bluff, and not too good a bluff at that," he said. "I imagine a lot of Americans, but myself, would like to see them bring their coal-burners out for a good licking. But they won't."



MR. DIES is shocked.