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Dies Says Sabotage Probe Is Underway In Lancaster

Chairman Of Congressional Probers Of Un-American Affairs Says He Has Received Numerous Complaints; Blames Indifference For Our Trouble In Talk To Elks

The tenacles of a vast plot hatched by the Japanese, Nazi and Communist governments to sabotage the war efforts and the government of the United States have reached even into Lancaster County, Congressman Martin Dies, revealed Friday night.

"We have received numerous complaints of the activities of certain residents in this area," the chairman of the House Committee investigating Un-American Affairs said in an interview following his address at the 53rd annual banquet of the Lancaster Lodge of Elks.

"The names of these individuals and their activities have been and are being investigated by the proper authorities," the tall Texan added.

JAPS, NAZIS WORSE

"Since the entry of the United States into the war the work of my committee has increased by leaps and bounds. Every day brings a new condition involving, principally, the activities of Japanese and Nazi agents," he added.

"The greatest foe of the United States," Dies told the 400 members and guests of the Elks lodge who attended the banquet, "is not the mechanized barbarism of Hitler or the perfidy of the Japanese. They are our immediate foes, to be sure, but we have an enemy far more deadly in our midst—the indifference and unconcern of our people."

If there had been no indifference, he told the cheering throng, "there would have been no Pearl Harbor episode."

Dies traced the Communist and Nazi influence of a score of organizations as revealed in hearings held by his committee, including the American League For Peace and Democracy, the International Workers Order and the American Youth Congress.

"The American League was able to induce 7,000,000 Americans to enroll not because they were in sympathy with the movement but because in their indifference and unconcern they join every organization that comes along. Nevertheless they were lending their prestige to the movement."

It is an example, he added, of "how gullible Americans have been used and deceived to lend influence to movements designed to destroy our form of government and substitute another for it."

Dies admitted that but a small minority of American citizens are in any way connected with subversive organization, but added, "the question is not how many but do they have them in the right places."

ON CIVIL LIBERTIES

"To the cry of we must preserve our civil liberties, let me answer: The emissaries of the foreign governments are busy, obtaining all the information possible. In Hawaii there are 150,000 Japanese and another 155,000 in the United States, mostly on the west coast.

"When we seized Japanese records on the west coast I was amazed to see what a good job they did. There was a map printed in Japan disclosing valuable military information including the secret battle formation of the Navy at Pearl Harbor and the range of patrol planes in Hawaii and the Philippine Islands.

The membership list of the Los Angeles German Bund, Dies declared, contained the names of 1,200 workers employed in west coast airplane plants.

"The Japanese even went a step farther. They just wrote to officials of cities along the west coast requesting information on location and size of water works, power plants and civic centers and the cities obligingly gave it to them.

"In Washington there are scores of men and women employed by the national government who, our records show, have taken pledges which are opposed to our form of government while we send our sons out to battle."

URGES ENTHUSIASM

Congressman Dies urged his hearers to become as enthusiastic citizens of America as the communist is and to rededicate themselves to the things which have made our country great. "A great America must be a religious America."

Dies was introduced to the assembly by District Attorney K. L. Shirk, who was toastmaster. The other guests of the lodge at the banquet included Congressman J. Roland Kinzer, District Grand Exalted Ruler Herman Early of Harrisburg; Wilbur G. Warner, president of the Pennsylvania State Elks Association, and G. Graybill Diehm, president of the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners.

Earl V. Stauffer, Exalted Ruler of the lodge, welcomed the guests and announced that scores of members had to be turned away because of lack of space. H. Lemar Wolf, who will be elected as Exalted Ruler was also introduced to the membership.

Arrangements for the banquet were in charge of a committee composed of Carl A. Simmons, chairman, C. Frank Edwards, H. Lemar Wolf, Oscar M. Mohn, Dr. William A. Wolf, Richard Ohlender, Edgar L. Matterer and Martin C. Dellinger.

Local Communists through circulars distributed throughout the city Friday protested the appearance here of Congressman Dies. Officers of the lodge said that they had received numerous anonymous letters also protesting Dies speaking here.