

Dies Report Asks Drive on 10 CIO Unions

Labels Them 'Communist,' Uses War As
A Pretext

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 3.—

An attack on ten important CIO unions featured the report of the Dies Committee to Congress which was made public today.

Foreshadowing demands for war-time suppression of the labor movement, the Committee used the "sabotage" scare angle to urge action against these unions.

Singled out for attack as "Communist dominated" by the Committee, which used labor spies and stool-pigeons as its star witnesses, were the following CIO affiliates:

"National Maritime Union; United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers; Federation of Architects, Chemists and Engineers; Fur Workers' International Union; International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; Transport Workers' Union; United Office and Professional Workers' Union; American Communications Association and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers."

Raising the issue of a war emergency against these organizations, it said that "the serious factor in the situation" lies "in the foreign control over Communist Party members which might in time of stress lead to sabotage and espionage."

ATTACKS U. S. S. R.

The Committee attacked the Soviet Union and hinted that it would like the administration to break off diplomatic relations with the U. S. S. R., assailed several large progressive organizations as "Communist fronts," and devoted most of its report in an effort to prove that the Communist Party is a "foreign agent."

Crossed out in pencil on the first copies of the report made available to newspapermen was a charge that "Communist influence has been strong in certain locals of the American Newspaper Guild."

The Committee report mirrored the sharp changes in the international situation which have taken place since the outbreak of the war in September.

For the first time the Committee

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exempted from criticism the Roosevelt administration which has swung so drastically to the right that its point of view on many questions coincide with that of the witch-hunting Committee.

In addition, the Committee report was more subtly worded than in the past, and made a definite play for the support of those liberals who have jumped on the Chamberlain band-wagon.

Changing its line with a new world situation, the Committee which had once assailed every effort to combat fascism as "Communist" declared in its report:

"There is at present taking place in the world a struggle between democracy on the one hand and dictatorship on the other, upon which the future of human liberties in the next few years may depend."

All seven of the Committee members, New Dealers, tory Democrats and Republicans, signed the report.

It was understood that the Committee's phrase-mongering about democracy and its self-serving declarations of believing in civil liberties were thrown in as a sop to the two New Deal members, Reps. Jerry Voorhis and Joseph Casey.

WOO ROOSEVELT

Sections in the report which rapped the administration and assailed liberalism in general were also reported to have been deleted to placate these two Congressmen.

In its final form, the Committee report bore all the earmarks of being the joint effort of J. B. Matthews, strikebreaking chief investigator for the Committee and of Rep. Voorhis, a weak-kneed liberal who acted as a front for the Committee throughout its activities.

Despite the omission of some of his cracks against the administration, Rep. Martin Dies should have no real cause for complaint. The report goes the whole hog in pointing toward his immediate objectives of suppressing the Communist Party, hitting at trade unions, and whipping up hysteria.

In a convenient arrangement, some of the Committee members will apparently continue to make a "Liberal" appeal on behalf of the Dies Committee rims while Dies himself will continue to make his appeal to extreme reactionary and fascist groups.

Dies revealed in this article that Vice President Garner and he had conceived of the idea of the Committee after their attempt to get a resolution attacking the sit-down strikes passed by Congress had failed in 1937.

BOAST FAST ON BILLS

The Committee members agreed that one of their main achievements has been the fact that "many bills of a corrective nature have been introduced and passed by the House."

The only legislation that could meet the description have been the various anti-alien and criminal syndicalism bills which were passed at the last session.

Several thousand words in the report were devoted to parroting the charges of renegades and stool pigeons who had testified before the Committee that the Communist Party "is a foreign conspiracy masked as a political party."

Every known variation of the "Moscow gold" and "Moscow control" fable was trotted out in the report.

A number of progressive organizations with a large following were attacked by the Committee as "Communist fronts."

The honor roll of these organizations follows:

American League for Peace and Democracy; International Workers Order; American Student Union; Friends of the Soviet Union; National Negro Congress; Southern Negro Youth Congress; League of American Writers; Spanish Refugee Relief Committee; North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy and Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

The International Labor Defense and the American Youth Congress were also assailed by the Committee but not put on the list of "front organizations." The Committee said that "although some non-Communists have undoubtedly lent support" to the I.L.D., that "the Committee has established that it is, essentially, the legal defense arm of the Communist Party of the United States."

In the case of the American Youth Congress, the Committee graciously admitted that non-Communist organizations are affiliated but attacked the A. Y. C. for "including within its ranks those who do not believe in democracy, but in a contrary philosophy of life and form of government."

Although the Committee devoted a considerable section of its report to fascist and anti-Semitic groups, it did not once mention Father Coughlin, leader of the most powerful anti-Semitic setup in the country, it only gave casual mention to the Christian Front and Christian Mobilizer, violently anti-Semitic organizations which are under Coughlin control.

For the most part the Committee contended itself with criticizing those comparatively negligible fascist groups which do not have powerful financial and industrial backing.