

DIES COMMITTEE MEETS IN SECRET TO SHIELD FASCISTS

Witness Tells How Mussolini Works to Influence U. S. Youth, But Red-Baiting Probers Bar Reporters from Session

Mussolini's New York agents, his American youth movement, his storm troopers and his press and radio propaganda were exposed yesterday before three members of the Dies Congressional Committee.

But all in secret in star chamber hearings in the United States District Court Building.

In marked contrast to the staged open hearings in Washington, where red-baiting witnesses like John P. Frey and James B. Matthews, the strikebreaker, talked before reporters, the probe of fascism was held behind closed doors.

But the story came out none the less in spite of the efforts of Congressman Joe Starnes of Alabama, the chairman of the subcommittee, and J. P. Thomas of New Jersey. J. J. Dempsey, the third member, has criticized the Dies policies.

SUBMITS PROOF

The story came out when reporters interviewed Giralamo Valentini, chairman of the Italian Anti-Fascist Committee, the chief witness, as he left the secret hearings. The reporters were waiting because Congressman Thomas had said the committee had a "sizzling hot tip, too dangerous to talk about."

Valenti had hardly finished talking—he hadn't been told to be quiet before—when the chief Dies committee investigator, John C. Metcalfe, came out and asked him to hush up till such time as open hearings should be held.

Valenti told the Congressmen frankly that they had been listening to a lot of "bed-time" stories in Washington. He said they had been hearing a lot of unproven statements.

But he submitted proof for his charges that Mussolini, a foreign dictator, was invading the United States with fascist organizations and corrupting American youth.

He showed pictures to illustrate his charges.

U. S. CHILDREN

A picture of a group of American children giving the fascist salute in Italy was a high point in this exhibit. These children were among hundreds of children from the schools in New York and elsewhere, whom the Italian consuls arrange to have transported to Italy every summer as guests in the "Colonie del fasci all Estero" (government summer camps) to receive military drill and to be trained in Anti-Democratic fascist doctrines for periods of two to three months.

These children wear the uniforms of the Balilla, the fascist youth organization, during their stay in Italy.

"What do you expect these children to be when they grow up?" Valentini asked the committee.

"Will they be American citizens or fascist citizens?" he inquired.

The committee was upset. Its

members assured Valentini that he would be given an opportunity to give them more information at a public hearing.

Valenti furnished more evidence in a prepared statement, which the committee took, without reading at the time. This statement said that the transportation of the children to Italy is managed by a certain Professor Mario Giani, who makes his office in the Italian Consulate in the Palazzo d'Italia, in New York City.

PROPAGANDA SCHOOL

From the consulate Giani "keeps in touch with his agents, some of whom hold important positions in our colleges and public schools, and with the editors of the dailies and other publications printed in the Italian language," said the statement.

The mask for Giani's activities is the Dante Alighieri, a fascist propaganda school for children in New York and other cities.

Valenti turned to the Italian storm troopers, the "Squadristi," who drill in America.

"I wonder," he said, "how many public officials know of the existence in Morristown, N. J., of a camp, where we can see 10,000 fascist 'Squadristi'—most of them in Black Shirts—hold a colorful celebration in the presence of the Italian General Consul of New York (Vecchiotti), and hail their Duce."

Prof. Giani and Count Fichetti Guiglia, "an agent of the Italian Fascist government, and a coordinator in both the Italian Fascist Youth organization and the adult's Federazione Circoli Italiani all'Estero" were present at the blackshirt meet.

NAMES RADIO STATIONS

"I have at my disposal evidence, photographic, too, showing the thousands of organized Squadristi participating with all the above named officials of the Italian government in the Morristown Black Shirt celebration," said Valentini.

Valenti listed four New York radio stations—WBNX, WBIL, WOV and WHOM—broadcast Italian fascist propaganda subversive of American democracy.

And he listed seven daily Pro-Fascist Italian newspapers that work with Mussolini's agents, including Generoso Pope, the Tammanyite's "Il Progresso Italiano" and "Il Corriere d'America" in New York City, "Il Popolo Italiano," Philadelphia, and "La Notizia," Boston. In addition more

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than one hundred other periodicals, bulletins, etc., work with Mussolini's agents, too.

He listed the following fascist organizations and agents in New York City: The Dante Alighieri organization in the Palazzo d'Italia; the Lictor Federation, 225 Canal St., which publishes the Anti-Semitic "Guido della Stirpe" (Cry of the Race); the Associazione 18 Novembre 1935, 7712 New Utrecht Ave., Brooklyn, and Mr. Petrogese and Arturo Frillo; the Circolo Educativo-Masie Morgantini, 354 E. 116th St., which Tammany Congressman Lanzetta (Marcantonio's opponent), works with, and Mr. Albondandolo; the "Benito Mussolini Mario Sanzini," 2404 Hoffman St., Bronx, and Francesco Copua; the Scuola d'Italiano della Parrocchia, and Father Caprio, its head; the Scuola d'Italiano del Circolo Educativo, "9 Maggio 1938"—XVI, 243 Avenue U. Brooklyn, and Mr. Cinelli; the Scuola Parrocchiale di Sant'Anna, 312 E. 110th St., and Mr. Palmieri; and several others.