

# DIES INQUIRY ASKS PRESIDENT FOR AID OF BUREAU FORCES

Aug 24 1938

Arnold, as Acting Attorney  
General, Barred Use of FBI  
Agents, Chairman Says

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—The special House committee investigating Communist, Fascist, Nazi and other un-American activities in the United States asked President Roosevelt today to request various departments of the government to "loan" to the committee attorneys, investigators and clerical and stenographic assistance.

The plea, embodied in a motion by Representative Starnes of Alabama, was adopted unanimously and was sent immediately to the President at Hyde Park.

It was voted after the committee's final session in Washington for the present had delved into charges that the student body and the faculty of Brooklyn College contains strong Communist elements and that among the 11,000 students there are more than 1,000 active Communists.

Edward I. Fenlon, Professor of Philosophy at the college, and Earl A. Martin, chairman of the college's Biological Department, offered testimony in support of these charges.

#### Dies Writes to Roosevelt

In a letter to the President accompanying the request for aid, Representative Dies, chairman of the committee, asserted that when an original appropriation of \$100,000 was ~~re-~~engaged for the present investigation the House Committee on Accounts reduced the amount to \$25,000, because the use of "special investigators, attorneys and clerical help" would be accorded to the in-

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# PRESIDENT ASKED BY DIES FOR FBI AID

Continued From Page One

investigating committee by departments of the government.

Thurman Arnold, the Acting Attorney General, refused June 27, Mr. Dies reported in his letter, to assign any special agents of the Bureau of Investigation or any attorney of the Department of Justice.

"The committee has definite proof," the letter proceeded, "that the Department of Justice and the Works Progress Administration have been carrying on their payrolls investigators for the La Follette committee. It is, therefore, clear that the precedent has been established and we respectfully urge you to request the Department of Justice and the Works Progress Administration to place upon their payrolls the names of twelve investigators, which we will submit to them, and several stenographers, and at least one attorney.

"This will enable us to conduct a thorough investigation in accordance with the popular demand which is evidenced by the many letters and telegrams we are receiving from all parts of the country.

### Says Group Faces Handicap

"Unless we receive this aid, which has been extended to another committee, we will be greatly handicapped in the prosecution of this industry. The committee only has four investigators, but does not have any paid secretary or clerks.

"The hearings thus far have revealed a startling situation which should arouse the active interest of every patriotic citizen.

"The testimony thus far heard tends to indicate that foreign governments are influencing, if not directing, policies and activities of certain organizations in the United States and that these foreign governments are using these organizations as 'fronts' to advance their cause and interests in the United States.

"The evidence further tends to indicate that the overwhelming majority of memberships of these organizations are entirely innocent and have been merely duped into lending their influence and financial assistance to the cause of foreign nations. It is apparent, however, that these foreign countries have succeeded in transferring their quarrels and 'isms' to our shores.

"Of course, some of the testimony must be discounted due to bias, the natural tendency to exaggerate when dealing with this subject, and to other factors. But after making due allowances for all these factors, the fact remains that the situation is sufficiently serious to justify a thorough and fearless investigation which will accord to all sides a full opportunity to be heard to the end that the truth with regard to all un-American activities and propaganda may be ascertained once and for all."

### Says "Distrust" Has Arisen

In his testimony Professor Martin said that "communist activity" had "done great damage" to Brooklyn College.

"It has lowered the morale of the faculty and has brought about a

## PROFESSORS TESTIFYING BEFORE DIES COMMITTEE



Times Wide World  
Professor Edward I. Fenlon



Times Wide World  
Professor Earl A. Martin

feeling of distrust of one colleague in another," he asserted. "It is not possible to make any correct estimate of the number of Communists on the faculty and in the student body."

Professor Fenlon estimated that the number of Communists in the day classes of the college was under 1,000, adding that there was a considerable number in night classes.

"Considering that there are roughly 11,000 students in Brooklyn College, about equally divided between day and evening classes," he went on, "the number of Communists cannot prove alarming as yet in itself."

The faculty, undergraduates and graduates of Brooklyn College, Professor Fenlon declared, were being subjected to "an incessant barrage of Communist literature." He told of the circulation among the faculty members and students of a magazine called The Staff, which publishes, he said, that it is "issued monthly by the Brooklyn College unit of the Communist party of America."

"This unit," the witness declared in a prepared statement, "is a teacher group, and confessedly so. To date the paper has appeared practically on schedule and has, in addition, offered supplementary numbers.

### Some Attacks "Untruthful"

"To be sure, it does seek to spread Communist doctrines, does do its utmost to form and strengthen the so-called 'united front' and does not hesitate to censure or denounce those whom it finds in its way. It seems ever willing to oppose authority as constituted. In certain of these personal attacks it is palpably untruthful. I come prepared to present evidence for any of these assertions.

"The anomaly is that The Staff is herald and torchbearer for 'free

speech' and 'academic freedom,' but not for everybody.

"The Staff is forwarded by mail, and occasionally carries a printed Communist enclosure. Usually the paper is well printed and is of six pages. Marked copies of The New Masses, by way of propaganda and presumably from the same source, were sent to the homes of certain teachers of the college on a particular occasion.

"As for the students, three Communist organizations at least have been active and are active, overtly so. There is a fourth group that I believe, and not without evidence at hand, to be a 'united front' organization and possibly the most dangerous of them all.

"While carrying on an important feature of the Communist program, it is getting by as a democratic educational asset. It goes by the name of 'The American League for Peace and Democracy,' but not so long ago was known as 'The American League Against War and Fascism.'

### Asserts Youth Congress Link

"This is one of the groups whose delegates now annually assemble in this country under the aegis of the American Youth Congress, and which has recently named its representatives to the World Youth Congress at Poughkeepsie. If it be denied that it is represented under this title at Brooklyn College, it is represented in fact.

"The three Communist organizations, two of them avowed, are the so-called followers of Stalin, the Marxists or Trotskyites, supposed to be pristine or orthodox Communists; and the American Student Union, said to be jointly controlled by communism and socialism, but, and most certainly, influenced by communism.

"Another organization affecting members of the teaching body of the college should not be overlooked. If we may not call it Com-

munist, we can say for doing certain communism and efficiency—that is, to be done by disloyal employees in the cities. I refer to the Union.

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*Handwritten note:* New York Times - August 2, 1938

**FEYLING BEFORE DIES COMMITTEE**



Times Wide World  
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**Professor Earl A. Martin**

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"Besides The Staff, which makes its appeal chiefly to the teaching, administrative and clerical forces of the college, though copies are circulated among the students, there is an incessant barrage of handbills at the various entrances, distributed ordinarily by students of the college. At times the stairways and sidewalks are littered, in places perhaps half an inch thick.

**Discusses Teachers Union**

"Morning, noon and night, and in between, do these leaflets appear. For this reason alone Brooklyn College might fairly be labeled an imposing center of propaganda.

"Responsible for a no inconsiderable part of this propaganda is the Teachers Union, an organization federated with labor, but having few, if any, problems to do with labor. In the college it is undoubtedly a pressure group. Indeed, the faculty itself was forced to condemn its activities. Very many of our teachers accept it as somehow linked with communism. It is difficult to escape the impression.

"Withal, considering the activity of the Communist teachers, communism has a no mean influence in the college and gathers this influence not through numbers, evidently, but through its ceaseless appeals and its untiring pressure. It leaves a residue that is effective beyond itself. Students have often complained to some of us that an active Communist has an advantage 'to land' a key position, even in some of the college publications, a position often seemingly closed to one who becomes labeled a conservative."

Dr. Martin followed Professor Fenlon to the stand and supported the latter's statements about The Staff magazine and the circularization of teachers with other Communist publications. These, he said, came by second-class mail.

**'Office Addresses Investigated'**

"The Staff has printed addresses for mailing contributions and articles," he went on, "but those who have gone to these addresses have reported that none are the headquarters of the paper. The regularly printed publication bears a union label that has been defaced to such an extent that it cannot be identified. In one or two instances a number appears adjacent to this union label, but it is very doubtful whether this number has any significance."

The articles in the magazine, he declared, might be classified as "personal attacks on administrative officials of the college, appeals for greater democracy, dissemination of general information concerning the Communist program and specific information concerning the Communist program in Brooklyn College and attempts to discourage loyalty' American institutions."

The final witness today was Miss Margaret Kerr of Los Angeles, who filed a mass of documents bearing on the alleged Communist activities of Harry Bridges, the West Coast maritime union leader. Chairman Dies said that Mr. Bridges would be thoroughly investigated by the subcommittee which will hold hear-

ings in Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

**Sub-Committee's Program**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23 (AP).—A sub-committee of the House group inquiring into un-American activities will study the charges that high officials of the Labor Department gave aid and advice to Harry Bridges, C. I. O. maritime labor leader, while deportation proceedings were pending against him.

Chairman Dies said today that, while no testimony had yet been taken on the charges regarding Mr. Bridges and the Labor Department, the subject would be taken up when the subcommittee visits Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"We're after that angle," he declared.

The subcommittee to go to the West Coast will be headed by Representative Dempsey, Democrat, of New Mexico. Other members will be Representatives Starnes, Democrat, of Alabama, and Mosier, Democrat, of Ohio.

At the request of the committee the Labor Department has submitted its files and correspondence on the Bridges case. Mr. Dies said that the committee had not had time to run through the documents. Asked why the investigation would be pursued in California when the officials in question were in Washington, the chairman said that the "evidence" was on the Pacific Coast.

Professor Fenlon told the committee that the "Stalinist-supported chairman" of the "alien directed" American Youth Congress had received a letter from President Roosevelt in 1936 lauding the congress for aiding democracy.

The witness added "another of the President's family has gone out of the way unwittingly to inspire the alien spirit that undoubtedly controls this congress."

He did not name the member of the family immediately, but later said it was Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The congress to which Professor Fenlon referred met in Milwaukee in 1936. He said that "the President also sent a letter of regard to the American Youth Congress at its last December meeting at Poughkeepsie." He contended that the World Youth Congress just adjourned at Vassar College was radical-dominated and a "danger" to democracy because it served to spread the "leaven" of communism.

Previous witnesses before the committee had mentioned that Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt had addressed this group last week and declared that in so doing she had been "exploited" by Communists.

**TEAD DEFENDS COLLEGE**

**Says Brooklyn Staff and Students Have Right to Own Views**

Ordway Tead, chairman of the Board of Higher Education, declared yesterday that the assertions by two Brooklyn College professors before the Dies committee that the institution was a "hotbed" of Communist propaganda were "grossly exaggerated."

Both teachers and students at the college, he said, are entitled to their personal opinions, and so long as the teachers did not let their personal views color their teaching

the board would not take any action against them. The board, which has jurisdiction over the city's colleges, has never had any complaints that Brooklyn College teachers were biased, he added.

"Our board," asserted Mr. Teader who is a book editor for the Harper's Brother Publishing Company "is responsible for the quality and content of material given in classrooms. This instruction given under the careful supervision of the several department heads and we have no reason to believe that the instruction offered contains bias in the way alleged.

"Allegations of Communist activity in our city colleges are not new nor is the fact of such activity known to our board. In so far as the activities of our students are concerned, they are, of course,

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titled to their personal political and economic views; and, certainly, no one would propose any direct interference with the free expression of their personal opinion on such matters.

**Matter of Own "Convictions"**

"If there are Communists in the faculty of Brooklyn College, that, too, in the first instance, is a matter of their personal and private convictions. The only way in which this matter would affect our policies would be if such private views were found to color with undue bias the instruction of such teachers."

"The policies and activities of the Teachers Union are not matters over which we have any direct control."

"The political views of the mem-

bers of our faculties are naturally diverse and are not a matter which we inquire into in the first instance. Our concern is with the scholarship and personal integrity of our faculties, and on this score we are confident that they rank high in comparison with the faculties of any other college.

"Indeed, differences of opinion and attitude among faculty members are a wholesome sign of vitality, and as this reflected in the teaching, it supplies students with a useful cross-section of the divergence of views in the community at large."

"I am confident that the allegations made before the Dies Committee are, like the famous premature report of Mark Twain's death, 'grossly exaggerated.'"