

AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY  
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LEAGUE HEAD ATTACKS DIES COMMITTEE

NEW YORK, August 00 - The following statement was made yesterday by the Reverend William B. Spofford, acting National Chairman of the American League for Peace and Democracy:

The absurd antics of the Dies Committee in taking unsupported and fantastic testimony from witnesses who would themselves make excellent subjects for investigation, and in offering sweeping characterizations of progressive organizations as "red" or "Communist-dominated", constitute a grave menace to democracy, the basis of the Americanism which the committee is supposed to be protecting.

While Nazi organizations are receiving only the scantiest attention from the Dies New Deal-smearing outfit, while Nazi sympathizers are on the witness stand to air their opinions without offering genuine evidence, progressive organizations are lumped and labelled as agencies of the mysterious "Communist front."

The American League for Peace and Democracy, whose published and widely circulated program includes support for Roosevelt's quarantine the aggressor policy and the good neighbor policy, and opposition to all Fascist and anti-democratic groups, has been named in irresponsible testimony given by John P. Frey, Homer S. Chaillaux and Walter S. Steele. The American League for Peace and Democracy is not dominated by any political party nor by any groups except the peace forces of the nation. It does not propagandize for any party or program except its own program which is based on two simple points: Protect and extend democratic rights for all sections of the American people, and keep the United States out of war and help keep war out of the world. The League's program, its activities, its leading members are neither secret nor in any way mysterious.

But the League is determined that Fascist groups, which do meet and work in secret, shall be exposed and it considers this a proper duty of a Congressional committee which honestly desires to investigate un-American activities. The League in the course of its daily work consistently exposes anti-democratic groups for what they are. And the League will continue to do this work as it is now convinced that the Dies Committee has neither the intention nor the desire to do the job although it accepted government funds under the pretext that it would do so.