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IS IT TRUE WHAT THEY SAY (DOWN IN WASHINGTON) ABOUT OUR SHIRLEY?

SYMPOSIUM OF EDITORIALS SHOWS THAT DIES COMMITTEE IS GRADE Z CIRCUS

NEW YORK, August 00 - Critical comment on the performance of the Dies committee indicates that most reviewers would not recommend further government subsidies of \$25,000 to stage such a dull and witless circus, a show certainly too poor in entertainment value (though it is summer) to justify the expense of production.

The circus which has just ended its Washington run is otherwise known as the House Committee investigating un-American activities. The hearings, conducted by Chairman Martin Dies of Texas, produced some first-rate laughs and a mass of totally unsubstantiated testimony by Arthur Sullivan, known labor spy and professional stool pigeon according to the records of the LaFollette Committee, and by J. B. Matthews, former head, for four months, of the American League for Peace and Democracy, and known strikebreaker who was forced to resign from the American League when he could offer no defense of his strikebreaking activity.

Future bookings of the Dies show, if the show plans to continue in the face of its discouraging press notices, will be in New York, San Francisco and possibly one or two other cities where the committee feels there may be an audience for its brand of red-baiting.

Here's what the New York press and prominent persons had to say about Mr. Dies as director of the show "Red-baiting to end all red-baiting in goodness knows how many acts":

HERALD-TRIBUNE --- "The country should be warned against the danger of spying a Communist under every bush."

POST --- "He (Congressman Dies) is running a Washington sideshow with the purpose of smearing the New Deal, to convince the people that President Roosevelt wears a full Russian beard which somehow doesn't show up in the photographs. In show business they would call it a hot-weather performance, rough around the edges, with a feeble script."

DAILY NEWS --- From editorial headed "So Shirley Temple is a Communist" --- "the Dies Committee...has hung a Red label on poor little Shirley Temple, among other movie stars, and now wants the help of the G-men in digging up more smear stuff. It is ridiculous and it helps the Reds...Let's not be hornswoggled by the Communists among us -- but let's not be talked out of our sense of perspective by the Red-baiters, either."

WORLD-TELEGRAM --- "...a subsequent news story written from the committee room reports that Chairman Dies 'indicated the committee may go to Hollywood to dig into the charges.' What could be sweeter than an expedition to that place of glamour

and lovely individualism -- at government expense?"

HEYWOOD BROWN -- "Mr. J. B. Matthews, whom I had the privilege of telling off in a corridor, has sold the Dies Committee a dubious bill of goods. The implications of the testimony of Mr. Matthews are that anything the Communists are for should be the prize hate of everybody else. And so Mooney should continue to rot in jail and Hitler should live long and prosper."

TIMES -- "One gathers from some of the testimony given before the House Committee on un-American activities that it is now possible to be a Communist without knowing it."

RODNEY DUTCHER, NEA reporter -- "...to date committee policy has been to listen bug-eyed to all volunteer witnesses who want to put the Communist tag on persons and organizations they don't like, with or without evidence....No such loosely handled investigation has been covered previously by this generation of Washington correspondents."

JOURNAL-AMERICAN -- "In its public hearings at Washington, the Dies Committee performed a memorable service by dragging into the fullest light of day the secret and sinister machinations of Russian Communism in the United States. And, in so doing, the Committee has presented to America complete confirmation of what the Hearst newspapers have been saying continually ever since these newspapers undertook, a few years, to awaken the people to the increasing menace of this Moscow-directed conspiracy against our free institutions....Nobody can any longer seriously deny that the screen is tainted with Communism."

FORMER GOVERNOR HOFFMAN OF NEW JERSEY -- "I can imagine him (J. B. Matthews) nervously looking under his bed each night expecting to find a bomb or Heywood Brown. I don't know -- and don't care -- if I am a member of the advisory council of the American Youth Congress."