

Hamilton's Statement to Dies Committee

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
WASHINGTON, May 22.—The text of the statement of John D. M. Hamilton, chairman of the Republican National Committee, before the Dies Committee investigating un-American activities was:

I am happy to have an opportunity to appear before this committee for any questions which its members may care to ask regarding the testimony given last week by Mr. James Erwin Campbell. Indeed, I am pleased if I can be of any assistance to this committee in its task of investigating anti-American activities, because I believe it is doing a very necessary and patriotic work in exposing Fascist, Nazi, Communist and all other subversive influences which may be at work in this country. No man's position should relieve him of submitting himself to this committee if he has been in any way mentioned in its proceedings. I presume this committee would like to have the facts regarding an exchange of correspondence between the Republican national headquarters and Mr. Campbell, which, according to the press reports, figured in the committee's hearings last week. I have found in the files of the Republican national headquarters the correspondence between Mr. Campbell and myself which has been published. But I have no recollection whatever of Mr. Campbell, nor have I any knowledge of him except that which has appeared in the newspapers in the last four or five days.

First Letter Six Months Ago

Mr. Campbell's first letter—dated Nov. 21, 1938—was sent to me with a covering letter from Mr. Felix McWhirter of Indianapolis, whom I have known for several years as a finance officer of the Republican organization in Indiana. In the Campbell letter, written on stationery of "Business Engineering Associates," Owensboro, Ky., he referred to meeting me at the so-called "Corn Field" Republican rally held near Washington, Ind., on Aug. 27 last year. He recounted a conversation which he said we had at that time. Also he asked for an appointment with me in January in Washington, D. C. Mr. Campbell may very well have met me on that occasion, but I have no recollection of talking with him. Approximately 25,000 people attended this meeting from half-a-dozen States and I daresay I talked with several hundred.

To his first letter, I replied on Nov. 30 that I would be glad to see him in Washington in January if a convenient date could be arranged. He acknowledged this letter under date of Dec. 6 advising me that he and Mr. McWhirter would be in Washington in the early part of January. There is record in our files of a reply to this letter. Our headquarters received a third letter from Mr. Campbell under date of Feb. 6 this year in which he stated he was increasing his mailing list and asked for a list of the membership of the Republican National Committee, adding that he expected to be in Washington in April and would like to see me.

Under date of Feb. 9, accom-

panied by a routine letter prepared by one of my secretaries, the last was forwarded to him. At this point may I say that our headquarters, as a matter of course, furnishes a list of the National Committee membership to anyone requesting it. You know, of course, that this list is public property as it appears in several publications, including the World Almanac.

The last letter we received from Mr. Campbell, dated Feb. 13, acknowledged the receipt of the list of the committee membership. For the first time, in this letter, Mr. Campbell informed us he intended to send to those on the list a speech made by General Moseley which he said showed "how the present Administration was not only responsible for subversive activities in this country, but through their vacillating (sic.) foreign policy were throwing us closer and closer to the brink of war." He again said he expected to see me in April. No reply was made to this letter and there has been no further correspondence between us.

In spite of Mr. Campbell's repeatedly expressed desire to call on me, I know I have not seen him since this correspondence commenced. I also wish to add that I have not communicated with Mr. Campbell directly or indirectly in any manner except as revealed in this correspondence.

Publication of this correspondence prior to my appearance here has resulted in the inference that in some way I, or the Republican national headquarters, have been sympathetic with anti-Semitic activities. No man who has a position such as mine can permit that challenge to go unanswered because it not only reflects on me but also on the great political party which I represent.

I have no knowledge whatever of any activities of Mr. Campbell or any others who have been named before this committee except what has been recently reported in the press. There was nothing in Mr. Campbell's letters to me which indicated in any way that he was engaged in any un-American activities. If there had been, I certainly would not have engaged in any correspondence whatsoever with him.

Intolerance "Hateful to Me"

All my life any form of intolerance has been hateful to me. My first campaigns in public life were marked by my opposition to the Ku Klux Klan. I have always opposed any movement to penalize any man because of his race or because of the manner in which he chooses to worship God.

Only last Summer, shortly before the "corn field" rally mentioned in the Campbell letter, I publicly denounced and urged the defeat of a candidate for the Republican nomination for the United States Senate in Kansas who had attacked Catholics, Jews and Negroes. On that occasion, in an open letter to the Republicans of my State, I said:

"We have all been shocked by the manifestations of intolerance growing up in the world elsewhere, and we should be more than shocked at its appearance

on our very doorstep and therefore doubly vigilant. Should I have the opportunity of voting on Aug. 2, as a Republican acting in the interest of my party and my country, I certainly would not vote for any one who has dedicated himself to a course of intolerance.

Again, about the very time this correspondence with Mr. Campbell commenced, I addressed a telegram to more than forty leading Republicans throughout the country suggesting that they issue statements to the press "condemning the horrifying and barbaric persecution of minorities in Nazi Germany, especially within the last week."

Deeds, Not "Innuendoes"

I cite these two instances only because they occurred during the same period as the correspondence now before the committee. I offer them because I believe that deeds speak louder than baseless innuendoes and because I believe that a man's intentions can best be judged by his acts.

I trust that nothing I have said will be construed as a criticism of this committee, whose work, as I have already indicated, deserves the wholehearted support of every good American. Everything that is worthwhile in this country, whether viewed from a material, cultural or spiritual viewpoint, is dependent on the preservation of our American institutions. Intolerance to my mind, in as great an enemy of those institutions as is communism, fascism, nazism or any other "ism."

Text of Open Letter of July

The text of Mr. Hamilton's open letter of July 21, 1938, regarding the Kansas Senatorial Republican primary, referred to in his testimony before the committee, follows:

There has never been a time in the history of our party when it has been more necessary to have men of character and ability on our ticket than now, and I have every confidence that the Republican voters of our State will exercise sound judgment in the selections which they make on Aug. 2.

It is impossible for me to separate myself in my capacity as a voter in Topeka and as the Republican National Chairman. For that reason I do not believe that it would be fitting for me to express a preference as to those whose names will appear upon the primary ballot of my party. This does not, however, preclude me from expressing what has been uppermost in my mind for the last few weeks.

Kansas came into being during a period of a great national crisis. Among the issues which confronted the country at that time was one of tolerance toward men, and our State Constitution was adopted on the side of tolerance. It was my privilege through three campaigns to be opposed by an organization that thrived on intolerance. I have never regretted he stand which I took from 1924 to 1928, both as a candidate for public office and as a member

of the Kansas Legislature, against the Ku Klux Klan.

Warned Against Winrod

Once again intolerance has raised its head in the midst of our political picture, and the voters of our State cannot avoid the issue, whether they will or no. It is there and it is apparent to every one who has given the slightest thought to Kansas politics this year. If Mr. Winrod is nominated for the United States Senate, it will again be injected into the national campaign and our party in Kansas will be on the wrong side of a vital issue and opposed to our party policy in other States.

We have all been shocked by the manifestation of intolerance growing up in the world elsewhere and we should be more than shocked at its appearance on our very doorstep and therefore doubly vigilant. For that reason I am quite willing that my views should be made known upon this question, as should the views of all the leaders of our party in Kansas.

Should I have the opportunity of voting on Aug. 2, as a Republican acting in the interests of my party and my country, I certainly would not vote for any one who has dedicated himself to a course of intolerance such as has Mr. Winrod. If the reasons which I have given above for not voting for Mr. Winrod, which are all-sufficient as far as I am concerned, do not appeal to others in Kansas, may I ask them to consider the possible disastrous effects which his nomination would have upon the entire State and local Republican tickets in November.

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Continued From Page One

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"No man who has a position such as mine," he said, "can permit that challenge to go unanswered, because it not only reflects on me but also on the great political party which I represent."

He likewise assured the committee that Mr. Campbell had never been authorized to represent the Republican national organization in any capacity. He said that it became necessary last March to send out letters to all Republican organizations in the country warning against unauthorized persons repre-

senting the party. Campbell containing what the chairman called "vile insinuations about the President and his wife." He said he would not read them into the record because of their character.

Mr. Gilbert took the position that he had merely passed on information that had come to him from his tipster, the waiter supposedly working in the Harmonie Club and known to him as George Rice.

Mr. Campbell, however, had seen fit not to disseminate this matter in the reports he sent to those on his mailing list. He said that the alleged information was not important, as it referred to "a controversial issue with the D. A. R.," but that he would have sent out any information about Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt if it had been pertinent to communist activities.

Questioned by Representative Voorhis of California, Mr. Campbell said that he still believes there is "a definite Communist plot" to seize control of the country shortly.

Witness Chides Committee

Mr. Campbell testified that

... ever before, and added:
 Stand on Palestine Endorsed
 "It is our belief that as Americans we should be better Jews, and by being better Jews we become better Americans. As Jews we pledge ourselves to the defense of the traditional American ideals of democracy, and we voice our 100 per cent opposition to any 'ism,' whether it be of the right or the left."
 The organization adopted a resolution endorsing the recent message of the Supreme Lodge, which expressed "profound regret" over the British Government's "abrogation of its obligation for a national Jewish home in Palestine as pledged in the Balfour Declaration."
 Other resolutions endorsed the Boy Scout movement and urged members to increase their support; asked lodges and members to cooperate with all agencies engaged in the settlement of refugees, regardless of creed; urged continued expansion of vocational guidance for Jewish youth, recognized fields in which there were "narrowing possibilities" for Jewish youth; condemned anti-democratic movements and organizations seeking to promulgate subversive activities, such as fascism, nazism and communism, and extended felicitations to Bishop Francis J. Spellman on his elevation to the post of Archbishop of the New York Archdiocese.
 The women's auxiliary of E'nai B'rith elected Mrs. Ida Cook of Brooklyn president for the coming year; Frances A. Welner of Boston and Sarah Stalshover of Buffalo

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Dies and Two Colleagues Tilt

While Mr. Hamilton was on the stand the atmosphere of the hearing was peaceful and courteous. Earlier, however, during the testimony of Mr. Campbell, there were repeated clashes between Representative Dies of Texas, its chairman, and Representatives Thomas of New Jersey and Mason of Illinois, the only two Republican members. The Republicans felt that Mr. Dies, by persistent questioning in which he used the words "Republican party," was trying to build up a record which would show that their party had some sympathy with Mr. Campbell's activities.

The confusion arose from the loose sense in which Mr. Campbell, in his letters, used the expression, "our organization." At times, this would refer to the forty-odd men who received the confidential bulletins sent out, based on information received from Dudley P. Gilbert of New York, who got his alleged facts, he testified last Thursday and again today, from a waiter he knew as George Rice and who claimed to work in the Harmonie Club at 4 East Sixtieth Street, New York City.

On other occasions, the term would refer to a projected organization that Mr. Campbell was trying to form to promote Homer Capehart for the Presidency in 1940. As far as the testimony showed, Mr. Capehart's candidacy did not progress very far as a result of Mr. Campbell's efforts, despite frequent appeals for funds in which to build up a club in each of the 435 Congressional districts in the country.

At still other times, Mr. Campbell would speak of the Republican party as "our organization." Questions in this connection by Mr. Dies led to the exchanges with the Republican members, which Mr. Mason finally terminated by saying:

"We ought to go on the evidence. The evidence showed that a Democrat (Mr. Gilbert had testified that he once voted for President Roosevelt) and a Republican got together to make a team. That's all we are interested in."

Mr. Dies examined both Mr. Campbell and Mr. Gilbert about a report sent by Mr. Gilbert to Mr.

Campbell containing what the chairman called "vile insinuations" about the President and his wife. He said he would not read them into the record because of their character.

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Witness Chides Committee

Mr. Gilbert resented the committee's making public the transcript of his testimony last Thursday after warning him not to talk to any one for publication. He intimated that he would have been less revealing on that occasion had he known that the information he was imparting would be made public.

George Rice had made no effort to get in touch with him, he said, and he himself did not know how to find the alleged waiter.

"After all this publicity I would have a hard time finding him," he said. "That man's in mortal danger of his life and he would be crazy to wait around to be bumped off."

He also chided the committee for making public the name of the Harmonie Club, which he had tried to keep secret because he knew that "lots of people in that club are good, God-fearing people."

On the whole, the public interrogation of Mr. Campbell and Mr. Gilbert today elicited little new material during the five and a half hours that the committee devoted to them. The broad outlines of the Communist revolt alleged to be brewing at the Harmonie Club, and the fascist government advocated by George Deatherage, head of the Knights of the White Camelia, with Major Gen. George Van Horn Moseley as its head, remained the same.

These two men will be heard later in the week.