

Police Subdue Deatherage at Dies Inquiry

Make Him Sit Down When He Dares Chairman To; He Tells of Anti-Jewish Drive

By Bruce Finter

WASHINGTON, May 23.—George E. Deatherage, national commander of the Knights of the White Camellias, opened his testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Activities after a stormy entrance today, and told the members that anti-Communist groups with anti-Semitic leanings were in touch throughout the world and might be united in the United States under a single leadership.

He predicted that the suicide in New York yesterday of Ernst Toller, exiled German poet and dramatist, was the first of a wave of suicides in the United States similar to that which swept Vienna after the advent of the Hitler regime there. He said Toller had been in Hollywood advising on matters of policy for Left-Wing motion pictures, and intimated that the pressure caused by his and similar militant groups would be sufficient to cause other persons, presumably the "Jewish Communists" he said he opposed, to take similar action.

Deatherage, called to the stand this afternoon after Felix McWhirter, Indianapolis banker, had completed his testimony, was asked by Representative Martin Dies, Democrat, of Texas, chairman of the committee, to raise his right hand to be sworn in.

"Is this a Christian oath?" Deatherage asked.

"Did you ever hear of any other kind of oath?" the chairman said.

"I want your assurance that it is a Christian oath," Deatherage insisted.

"My assurance won't make it any better," Representative Dies said. "Raise your right hand."

"Not on trial," Deatherage says Deatherage did so, was sworn in, and then was asked by the chairman if he had any objection to answering the committee's questions and answering them objectively, without undue elaboration.

"I have objections to answering questions without being allowed to present my own evidence," he said. "I'm not on trial here, Mr. Dies, you know."

Deatherage had risen to his feet and was demanding in a loud voice that he be permitted to make a statement. Representative Dies explained that the opportunity would come for that later, but the witness continued his demands.

"Likely to Pop," He Warns

"You sit down," said Representative Dies, banging on his desk with his fist.

"You come over here and make me sit down," said the witness.

Representative Dies finally called two Capitol policemen, and they grasped Deatherage by his arms and forced him into the chair.

"You will be afforded full opportunity to give your side of the story," the chairman said. "But this hearing is going to be conducted with decorum and proper standards. Do you understand?"

"Do you understand me?" asked the witness.

He quieted down after that, gave his pedigree, and for more than a half hour answered questions willingly and at length. Suddenly he interrupted again.

"There's a fellow over there sneering at me," he said, waving to one side of the room. "I'm of a nervous disposition and I'm likely to pop, and

Baffles Dies Committee



Herald Tribune—Acme
Felix McWhirter as he testified yesterday in Washington

groups, he said, including those in Germany and Italy, but there was no actual affiliation.

The witness established that there was a sort of working agreement between the individual groups in the United States; they did not trespass on each other's territory, except in some instances, and also exchanged literature and ideas, he said. Deatherage himself, he said, was chiefly active "below the Mason-Dixon Line." William Dudley Pelley, leader of the Silver Shirts, jumped about the country a great deal, he explained, and had been active lately in Texas, thus encroaching on the Deatherage territory.

He denied that he was an agent of Fritz Kuhn, leader of the German-American Bund, and said he had met the man only once.

"I met him in New York," he said, "in the Harvard Club—a very opportune place for that sort of thing—and we talked for a half-hour."

Kuhn, he said, probably would be persuaded to join in with the rest of the groups if an able leader, one who inspired confidence, could be found to lead the movement.

The Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, the witness said, probably could not be persuaded to join such a movement.

"This is the way I size rather Coughlin up," he said. "He's got 21,000,000 Catholics in the United States. He doesn't need any one else. He has one voter out of every six as a potential follower; and if he gets only a quarter of that number, he doesn't need George Deatherage or any one else. Because he'll take all you boys and run you off in a hurry, and he don't need me for that."

That was not the only time he expressed scorn for the Dies committee and its work. Declaring that there would be civil disorder in the country inevitably, he expressed the belief that he would come in spite

of what 10,000 Dies committees can do."

"Don't you think," asked Representative H. Jerry Voorhis, Democrat, of California, "that the more people you get in your organization the more likely it will be that there will be disorders?"

"I would say yes," said Deatherage.

"I would, too," said the Representative.

Deatherage became involved in an explanation of the effect his group hoped to have, and finally cited the suicide of Toller to prove his point. Toller, he said, had been living in Hollywood with Louis B. Mayer as the adviser for Left-Wing propaganda films. Something would have to be done about that, he said, and the Catholics already were doing it through their lists of acceptable pictures.

"You don't mean to say you believe the movement had anything to do with Toller's suicide, do you?" asked Representative Voorhis.

"You don't want me to answer that," said the witness.

"Yes I do," said Representative Voorhis.

"Well," said Deatherage, "in my opinion Toller was the first in a wave of suicides similar to that which followed the occupation of the Sudetenland and the seizure of Vienna. These fellows are under terrific pressure and they know it well, all I can say is that there is defacing of another Catholic church in New York you will have 750,000 Irishmen going on a rampage."

Deatherage described himself as a man who had passed forty of his forty-seven years helping his fellow man before he became disillusioned. Then he started fighting Communism.

Mr. McWhirter was a trial to the committee. Answering all questions strictly within the limits in which they were asked, he had the members phrasing and rephrasing their inquiries for three hours, and more often than not professed himself to be unable to recall letters produced or incidents recalled.

Reports Branded Fantastic

He admitted receiving reports on subversive activities sent on from New York by Dudley P. Gilbert, and distributed by Campbell, but said he found them so fantastic that he paid little attention to them. Anything as fantastic as that would spend itself, he declared, if he had any anti-Semitic leanings or that he had any part in the group's activities.

Campbell, he said, he had known for a long time, and he believed him to be a man of integrity, although a little misguided and over-enthusiastic. He had sent him to John D. MacFarland, chairman of the Republican National Committee, because he had seen some of his pamphlets.

He wrote to MacFarland, asking if Mr. Campbell was one of the Secretaries of State, and if Jewish blood, and concerning the Jewish "connections" of Alfred Landon and William Allen White because he had read something of this in some publication, and wanted to find the truth as a matter of personal information, he had no special purpose for this, he said.

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"Gentlemen," said Representative Dies, to no one in particular, "don't sneer at the witness."

Deatherage thanked the chair, and the chair assured him it was all right.

"You're going along fine," Representative Dies said. "Keep it up and we won't have any trouble. You just answer the questions."

Deatherage, who wore dark glasses, leaned back in his seat as he testified, hooking his left thumb in his vest and gesticulating with his right hand. He explained that his anti-semitism was restricted to what he termed "international Jewry — not the rank and file of Jews as a race but a minority clique at the top—the international bankers who have upset Europe." Ordinary Jewry, he said, he considered pathetic—unfortunate people "under a hierarchy from which they can't get out from under." He offered to name names, but was stopped by Rhea Whitley, counsel to the committee.

Neither he nor the rest of the Knights of the White Camellias, he said, were disseminating racial nor religious prejudice, nor were they Fascist or Nazi sympathizers. They were interested, he said, in the common cause of "defeating a world-wide drive, especially in the United States, of Jewish Communism."

Names Gen. Moseley

The original idea of setting up a main organization in the United States, co-ordinating all the groups, he said, was to have Maj. Gen. George Van Horn Moseley, retired, head the movement. The general, he said, was actively interested in the movement, devoting his time and money to it, but had not yet been persuaded to take the leadership. The general has been subpoenaed to appear before the committee, and probably will testify on Thursday.

The general, Deatherage testified, had to be carefully educated in the movement, and great care had been taken to steer him along the right paths and prevent him from taking up with wrong groups. The general had not known the workings of "the Jew-Oriental mind," the witness explained, but after things had been explained to him he had become suspicious of virtually every one and still was so.

Mr. Whitley quoted from a letter written by Deatherage to James E. Campbell, of Owensboro, Ky., another alleged leader of the movement, in which Deatherage spoke of "going after the Jews" and said the general was going after them, too. He referred in his letter to the "Juice," and when questioned by Mr. Whitley explained that meant "Jews—a facetious term."

The international set-up of the anti-Communist movement, he said, was in the form of a liaison similar to the League of Nations. There was no official leader, he said, although there was a movement afoot at present to start one in Germany, but the national groups exchanged propaganda and ideas and were fairly co-operative and cohesive. He had had contact with many of the

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