

WHAT LOOMS BEHIND DIES?

THERE is talk of the Dies Committee being handed \$100,000 with which to continue its activities for a year. A mere \$50,000 being lopped off of the amount for which the chairman has asked.

One hundred thousand dollars is relatively a small sum of money. For the investigation of un-American activities in the United States it is comparatively a very small amount.

We say comparatively small amount because of the tremendous scope of such an investigation.

The question arises on all sides and with growing frequency:

From what source does the attack upon the program of national defense and social security, outlined by the administration, stem? We do not refer here to the prejudices of small farmers, small businessmen or other categories of our population who have legitimate complaints on matters which are being seriously tackled, but not solved with sufficient rapidity precisely because of big business sabotage.

But who is behind the concerted action of the big business press which has launched an endless barrage against the President and his closest advisers?

Big Business, of course. That is not the concrete answer which is needed. As President Roosevelt has shown, the vital issues of relief, of housing, of health are not to be separated from the issue of maintaining our national integrity, our national independence.

Our foreign policy is tied, indissolubly tied, to our home work.

Big Business recognizes this no less clearly than does the President.

As President Roosevelt speaks of working together with those nations desirous of preventing the spread of war and of stopping fascist aggression, so Alfred Knudsen speaks of Nazism as "the miracle of the 20th century." Ford is "honored" by fascism, J. P. Morgan endorses Chamberlain.

While President Roosevelt moves to cooperate with progressive forces at home and democratic nations abroad, his enemies are mobilizing and organizing reaction at home and are financing fascism abroad and supplying it with munitions of war. This cooperation is increasing. It is taking many forms.

If the President's program, with its endorsement of 27,000,000 citizens, is an American program, then the position of Wall Street is un-American, and the propaganda campaign of its gutter press is highly subversive.

The responsibility of a committee to investigate such activities in the United States is to bring to the forefront the relations of the Morgans, Knudsens, Fords and others with international fascism.

The attack made by the Dies Committee upon "Communism" parallels the verbal attack made by the fascist block upon the Communist International. Dies has taken the program of fascism as his guide in this particular.

Dies has crudely used the cry of "Communism" as a shield behind which to attack everything progressive.

His stooges have followed his lead as blindly and as crassly as he has followed that of Hitler and Mussolini.

The profound significance of this fascist method of approach should not be lost upon the American people.

Why does fascism identify everything progressive as Communist? Why at the same time does it crudely paint Communism as anti-democratic?

We can come to no other conclusion than that it is due to the progressive character of Communism. It is because Communism is the deadly and at once the clearest enemy of fascism. The progressives whom Mr. Dies seeks to smear should thoughtfully weigh this point.

By all means, let there be a committee to investigate the un-American and the subversive. And we submit, why not extend the activities of the La Follette Committee on Civil Liberties to cover this front also?

We call your attention to the editorial on Mr. Dies, taken from the "Birmingham News," and carried on this page in the "What Others Say" column.