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\$500,000 OFFERED TO AID DIES QUEST

He Tells Rules Group of Private Proffers; Asks That the Work Go On

LAWYERS ATTACK INQUIRY

Feb 1954
Accuse Committee of Unfairness, Usurpation of Power and Evading Duty

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 31—Representative Dies, chairman of the House committee investigating un-American activities, told the Rules Committee today that his group had refused offers of private financial help amounting to more than half a million dollars.

He appeared before the Rules Committee in behalf of his resolution asking continuance of the investigating committee and \$100,000 for its expenses. He asserted that his committee had done an impartial job, presenting as proof that "the publications of the German-American Bund denounced us as pro-Communist while the Communist publications denounced us as pro-Fascists."

The \$25,000 allotted the committee by the House last year was inadequate, Mr. Dies said. Representative Dempsey, Democrat of New Mexico, who, like Mr. Dies, is a member of the Rules Committee and also served on the investigating committee, asked him whether large sums had been offered from private sources.

Mr. Dies replied that 2,000 people wanted to contribute \$5,000 apiece, while many others offered sums ranging from 50 cents upward. He said contributions were even offered by persons on relief.

The Rules Committee postponed until tomorrow further consideration of the Dies resolution. At that time Representatives Marcantonio of New York, Coffee of Kansas and Keller of Illinois are scheduled to appear to oppose the resolution. Mr. Marcantonio said that should the resolution win committee approval, its opponents would carry their fight to the House floor.

A petition, containing what purported to be a detailed analysis of the testimony offered before the Dies committee, was presented to the House by a committee of lawyers and sent to each member. The petition attacked the committee, saying in part:

"It has conducted its hearings with utter disregard for elementary rules of impartial investigation and requirements of fairness by accepting testimony consisting almost wholly of surmise, conjecture, hearsay, unwarranted conclusions and unsupported opinion, instead of limiting the testimony to facts and evidence of probative value.

"It has used the prestige of the Congress of the United States to brand as un-American distinguished American citizens in and out of public life and to depict them as guilty of subversive activities or as dupes of others guilty of such activities.

"It has permitted itself, its proceedings and the immunity attached thereto to be used by criminals, labor spies and persons with selfish, ulterior motives to broadcast slanderous charges unsupported by proof against labor unions and public-spirited organizations.

"And, withal, it has failed—indeed, it has made no effort—to investigate the activities of persons and organizations, inspired from abroad and of native origin, engaged in spreading racial and religious hatred although proof thereof, by the testimony of reputable witnesses and by documentary evidence, was readily available."

The rules committee was asked by E. L. Oliver, executive vice president of Labor's Non-Partisan League, to withhold its decision until after consideration of charges preferred against the committee's former chief investigator, Edward Francis Sullivan.