

New York Herald Tribune - Feb. 2, 1939

## Congress Urged To Back Dies as A Defense Move

Feb 2/39  
**O'Connor Cites Need of Data  
in Case of War; Approval  
for Inquiry Due Today**

Special to the Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Warning Congress that the United States is "clearly preparing for war," Representative James J. O'Connor, Democrat, of Montana, proposed today a broadening of the current investigation of un-American activities to find out just what makes "Communists" and "Fascists" of Americans.

The statement was made before the House Rules Committee, continuing its hearing on the proposal to extend the activities of the committee headed by Representative Martin Dies, Democrat, of Texas, the disclosures of which prompted a parade of New Deal members of Congress before the Rules group in an effort to head off continuance of the investigation. The hearings will be concluded tomorrow, when the Rules Committee, on the basis of sentiment displayed today, is expected to approve a resolution to give the committee a one-year lease on life and to recommend a \$100,000 appropriation to finance the inquiry.

"If we are preparing for war," which I believe, said Representative O'Connor, "it will be well to look around at home, to be on the alert for trouble within."

"After four years of what I think was honest effort by Herbert Hoover and six years by President Roosevelt, we have failed to meet the problem of unemployment, which seems to be the main reason for distrust in our form of government. Any investigation of un-American activities should try to determine their causes. The committee should be continued, but authorized as well to find out from grass-root witnesses why they support Communism, Fascism or Nazism."

Of the several members of the House appearing today, Representative O'Connor was the only one who did not take the position that the investigation should be ended or that the existing committee headed by Representative Dies should be replaced by one with new personnel so that "a judicial and impartial" inquiry might be conducted.

Representative John Coffee, Democrat, of Washington, epitomized the sentiment of the opposition group when he pointed out that the Dies committee had spent 80 per cent of its time and efforts on "Communism" and only 20 per cent on activities of the "Fascist" and "Nazi" groups.

Bitter words were hurled at Representative Dies, who also is a member of the Rules Committee, by Representatives from California and Michigan, who charged the investi-

gating committee with "playing" politics in both states in the November elections and with using the committee's revelations against former Governor Frank Murphy and the Democratic ticket in California.

Representative Jerry Corhis, Democrat, of California, read a telegram from John G. Clark, chairman of the California Democratic State Central Committee, asserting that he had been "falsely accused" of being a Communist and had not had a chance to reply.

This theme was later taken up by Representative Lee E. Geyer, Democrat, of California, who said the committee should be discontinued as a "discredited" group if for nothing else than the suggestion that emanated from the committee room that Shirley Temple was a "Communist."

Representative John G. Dingell, Democrat, of Michigan, assailing Chairman Dies, asserted that he had no objection to continuance of the investigation if Mr. Dies were not placed on the committee.

Representative Carl E. Mapes, Republican, of Michigan, said "no Republican had a thing to do" with the appearance of Republican Judge Paul V. Gadola, of Flint, Mich., before the committee. Judge Gadola accused Attorney General Frank Murphy, then Governor of Michigan, of "treasonable action" in his handling of sit-down strikes.

"They didn't invite Murphy, but they paid Gadola's expenses," Representative Dingell said.