

# Tories Stampede House Approval of Dies Probe Fund

Feb 4/39

## Progressive Congressmen Put Up Game Fight Against Un-American Committee as Bill Passes in Hysterical Session

By Adam Lapin  
(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3. — Hysteria and gag rule reigned in the House of Representatives today as a hooting, jeering tory bloc steam-rolled through a resolution continuing the Dies Committee's witch-hunt for the coming year by the overwhelming vote of 344 to 35.

A courageous group of liberal and middle of the road Democrats fought back gamely—but they were confined to a total of exactly 13 minutes of speaking time.

Even that was handed them with a great show of generosity, and when a few did get a half minute

(See Page 6 for list of Representatives who voted against the Un-American Dies Committee.)

or a minute each to speak they were hardly listened to and interrupted frequently with the noises small boys make.

In a travesty on democratic procedure, the absurdly inadequate one hour set aside for debate was controlled by two equally reactionary members of the Rules Committee, Rep. E. E. Cox of Georgia, the ranking Democratic member and Rep. Carl Mapes of Michigan, the ranking Republican member.

### DIES A G.O.P. HERO

Rep. Martin Dies was the hero of the Republicans. To mention his name was to set off salvos of applause from their side of the House. One of their number even boosted him for the Presidency.

"As far as I'm concerned, Martin Dies would make a better President than some I've seen since I came here 20 years ago, and I don't mean Herbert Hoover," Rep. J. Will Taylor, R., of Tennessee declared, while his Republican colleagues applauded and stamped their feet.

The elderly chairman of the Rules Committee, Rep. Adolph Sabbath of Illinois, rose again and again to plead with the House to grant unanimous consent for at least another hour of debate and for equal distribution of time.

Minority leader Joe Martin, one of those so-called liberal Republicans, leaned over to Mapes and said in a stage whisper, "Against, against."

The actual objecting to any extension of time was done by a Tory Democrat, Martin F. Smith of Washington, one of the leading advocates of the Townsend plan.

### HITLERSQUE SPEECH

But the real climax of the wild and unrestrained hysteria came when Dies himself made the final speech of the "debate," his hands waving, his voice quavering, and a look of his blonde hair ranging over his forehead, Hitler fashion.

The applause, unanimous on the Republican side, scattered among the Democrats, started when the tall powerfully-built President of the House Demagogue's Club strode down the aisle.

Dies didn't bother to argue or reason or answer the serious charges that were made against his committee. He was cheered again and again as he boomed out to all the prejudices and platitudes revered by the tory members of the House.

"My daddy served in this House for 10 years," Dies said. "And during all the time he was here, he prized the dignity and the prerogatives of the House."

That had nothing to do with the case, but it went over big; and then he went on to assail Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes and Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins.

"When therefore cabinet officers—appointive officials of the government went out of their way not merely to attack me—for I amount to nothing, I am merely a humble and insignificant member of a great body—when they attacked me and when they attacked this com-

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# The Roll of Progressives Who Voted Against Fund to Continue Dies Probe

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 3.—The following 35 Congressmen refused to be intimidated by the Dies Committee and voted against its continuation for the coming year:

Patrick J. Boland, D., of Pennsylvania.

Michael J. Bradley, D., of Pennsylvania.

William D. Byron, D., of Maryland.

Joseph E. Casey, D., of Massachusetts.

John M. Coffee, D., of Washington.

Matthew A. Dunn, D., of Pennsylvania.

Thomas F. Ford, D., of California.

Frank W. Fries, D., of Illinois.

Lee E. Geyer, D., of California.

Frank R. Havenner, D., of California.

Knute Hill, D., of Washington.

Ed U. Izac, D., of California.

Kent E. Keller, D., of Illinois.

William H. Larrabee, D., of Indiana.

James P. McGranery, D., of Pennsylvania.

Raymond S. McKeough, D., of Illinois.

Vito Marcantonio, ALP, of New York.

John A. Martin, D., of Colorado.

Arthur W. Mitchell, D., of Illinois.

Abe Murdock, D., of Utah.

Francis J. Myers, of Pennsylvania.

James F. O'Connor, D., of Montana.

Caroline O'Day, D., of New York.

J. W. Robinson, D., of Utah.

Adolph J. Sabath, D., of Illinois.

Leon Sacks, D., of Pennsylvania.

William T. Schulte, D., of Indiana.

James G. Scrugham, D., of Nevada.

James A. Shanley, D., of Connecticut.

Joseph B. Shannon, D., of Missouri.

William I. Sirovich, D., of New York.

Rudolph G. Tenerowicz, D., of Michigan.

Beverly M. Vincent, D., of Kentucky.

Jerry H. Voorhis, D., of California.

Mon C. Wallgren, D., of Washington.

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mittee they struck a blow at the greatest deliberative body on earth and I resent such action."

Again applause. When Dies concluded, the Republican members of the House gave him a rising ovation. They had every reason. His time came out of the half hour set aside for the Republicans, and he did a good job for them.

No wonder that house liberals were gravely disturbed at today's disgraceful performance.

"The undemocratic methods by which the resolution was railroaded through giving only 13 minutes to the opposition is indicative of the undemocratic and un-American manner in which the Dies Committee is going to conduct itself," Rept. Vito Marcantonio, A.L.P. of New York, charged in a statement later in the day.

"The Democratic leadership of the House is going to feel mighty sorry for having recreated this Frankenstein monster," he added. During his one-minute speech, Rep. H. Jerry Voorhis warned that "the type of appeal that has been made today" proves that "this country is in danger."

### ATTACK ON KELLER

One of the most disgraceful episodes occurred when the absurd and utterly unfounded charge was made on the floor that Rep. Kent Keller, D., of Illinois, had "stolen" a speech he made attacking the Dies Committee from a pamphlet written by this correspondent.

The charge was first made by Dies during the Rules Committee hearings, Keller challenged him to produce concrete similarities, and Dies has not yet done so.

One reporter for the notorious Chicago Tribune worked hard to show that the two attacks on the Dies Committee were similar, and his paper ran paragraphs from both documents in parallel columns. Part

of the so-called proof was that both Keller and this writer urged American citizens to write or wire in protest against the Dies Committee.

A Dies Committee member, Rep. Noah Mason, R., of Illinois, repeated this slander on the floor.

Keller immediately demanded that he be permitted to address the House on a point of personal privilege, one of those time-honored prerogatives of which Dies spoke.

### SILVER SHIRT OBJECTS

But there came an objection from Rep. John C. Schafer, R., of Wisconsin, who was charged before the Dies Committee itself with being a member of the Nazi, anti-Semitic Silver Shirts.

As Keller insisted that he be heard, there came boos and jeers from the Republicans.

"When the leader of the Silver Shirts makes that charge," Keller said, "I again repeat by request to be heard."

Again there were boos, and Keller was not given an opportunity to reply.

The Republicans made little attempt to conceal just why they were so enthusiastically in favor of continuing the Dies probe.

Waving a telegram which he had received from Herbert Benjamin and David Lasser of the Workers Alliance, Rep. Hamilton Fish, R., of New York, declared that these two leaders of the unemployed were the most notorious Communists in the country.

He went on to say that "if that \$100,000 were spent on investigating the Workers Alliance alone" it would be "worth spending."

Another Republican, Frederick C. Smith, of Ohio, denounced the New Deal as "totalitarian government" and declared that its activities ought to be investigated because "these are the things that are causing all the trouble."

### FEAR DIES REPRISALS

The opponents of the Dies Committee did the best they could under the circumstances.

Rep. Arthur Healey, D., of Massachusetts, who as a member of the Dies Committee dissented from many of its practices appealed for "less sensationalism" and an end to the airing of "personal grievances" in the course of a two-minute speech.

In a half-minute speech, Rep. John Coffee of Washington urged that "one activity we might investigate is the activity of the Dies Committee itself."

Rep. Frank E. Hook, D., of Michigan, said caustically that "Frank Murphy did not belong to the Black Legion. That is why the Dies Committee did not investigate the Black Legion."

But their time was of course far too limited for any effective presentation of their case. Then, they opposed a united Republican contingent plus a large number of Tory Democrats. In addition there had been powerful pressure put on Congress by reactionary organizations of all sorts, and not enough counter-pressure.

As a result a good many liberals and New Dealers either abstained from voting or voted for the Dies Committee. This even included some who had appeared at the Rules Committee to oppose it. Many were actually afraid of political reprisals by the Dies Committee.

On the other hand the vote against the Dies Committee was of greater significance than its size would indicate.

Quite a few prominent middle-of-the-road Democrats voted against the resolution on the ground that they feared the Dies Committee would destroy their party and continue to engage in political activities.

Among these were Rep. Patrick Boland, Democratic whip, and Chairman Sabbath of the Rules Committee. Some Democratic Congressmen from California, Michigan and Washington joined with them for substantially the same reasons.