

Dies Faces Quiz on Financial 'Angels'

DW Feb 1/39
Keller Demands Who
Offered \$500,000
and Why

By Adam Lapin

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Liberal Congressmen today demanded to know the names of the persons who volunteered to give the Dies Committee \$500,000 and the reasons behind this offer.

They prepared to put this question to Rep. Martin Dies personally when they appear tomorrow before the hearing of the House Rules Committee on continuing the life of his so-called investigation into un-American activities.

Every indication pointed to a vigorous fight against the Dies Committee as Representatives Kent Keller, D., of Illinois; Vito Marcantonio, A.L.P., of New York, and John Coffee, D., of Washington announced they would testify before the Rules Committee. Only members of Congress are being permitted to appear.

A demand for a thorough examination into the offers of funds made to Rep. Dies and into the Committee's expenditures was voiced by the liberal Congressmen at a press conference in Rep. Marcantonio's office.

100 CONTRIBUTORS

Other important developments which came today as the Dies Committee resolution was brought up suddenly in a surprise effort to get a vote this week were:

1. Disclosure by Rep. Dies that 100 persons, whom he did not name, had offered to contribute \$5,000 each to the Committee.

2. Announcement by Chairman Adolph Sabbath of the Rules Committee that he has received hundreds of telegrams from prominent people all over the country, who were slandered before the Dies Committee, asking that they be heard before any decision is reached.

3. Release of an exhaustive study of the methods and procedure of the Dies Committee by 150 prominent lawyers who demanded that the Committee's activities be discontinued.

4. A request by E. L. Oliver, executive vice-president of Labor's Non-Partisan League that the Rules Committee withhold action until after considering charges against Edward F. Sullivan, former chief investigator of the Dies Committee and notorious labor spy, anti-Semite and convicted larceny artist.

The liberal Congressmen were in a fighting mood as they received

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the press to distribute copies of the brief prepared by the lawyers and to discuss their plans in opposing the Committee.

Rep. Keller declared that House progressives would battle "without gloves" against the Dies Committee first at the Rules Committee hearing and then on the House floor.

Even if the Dies resolution is passed by the House, he said, "We intend to carry on the fight and reach the American people."

In answer to a question as to how this can be done, he said that "speeches can be made over the radio and statements can be made to you gentlemen of the press, and I intend to do both."

Referring to the statement by Dies that he had been offered \$500,000, Keller declared:

"I want to know who those people are. We ought to have their names. We ought to know what they expected to get out of it."

Coffee and Marcantonio backed up this demand by Keller. They added they had been going through the vouchers of the Dies Committee and were struck by the fact that there was "no break-down" as to specific expenses.

GOP VEHICLE

Pointing to the brief prepared by the noted attorneys, Marcantonio said:

"I don't believe that any Congressman can vote conscientiously to continue the Dies Committee after studying this brief."

He declared that the Dies Committee had become "a meat cleaver against the New Deal and other lib-

eral movements" and that it is now "the best vehicle the Republicans have to ride into the presidency in 1940."

At the Rules Committee meeting earlier in the day the spirit of its former chairman, John J. O'Connor still seemed to prevail although Rep. Adolph Sabbath, a vigorous New Dealer, now presides over its deliberations. Dies himself is still a member of the committee as are several other notorious reactionaries.

The Tories are still in the saddle and Sabbath, who repeatedly referred to the "irresponsible people" who appeared before the Dies Committee and the "frivolous testimony" which it heard, was in a very definite minority.

Other members of the committee listened sympathetically as Dies, without blinking an eye-lash, declared that he had offered every one who had been accused before his committee a full and fair chance to tell his story.

He forgot to mention that Heywood Broun, the noted columnist, was rushed off the witness stand in 60 seconds flat when he availed himself of this "opportunity."

FUNDS "POURED IN"

When the question of Dies Committee's finances was raised, Rep. John Dempsey of New Mexico, a Dies Committee member, asked:

"Isn't it true that we were offered large sums of money and that we returned every cent?"

Adding that "checks came rolling in," Dies agreed that the Committee had refused to accept outside funds.

"One hundred people wanted to

contribute \$5,000 each, and we refused," he declared.

As the tide of liberal protest against the Dies Committee kept rising, Oliver presented the Rules Committee with a copy of the memorandum on former Chief Investigator Sullivan which Labor's Non-Partisan League prepared with the request that no action be taken until this matter is studied thoroughly. Oliver said in part:

"I have followed with some interest the various kinds of proceedings before the Dies Committee. It is my opinion that nothing brought out in any of their hearings is so grave in character or so worthy of serious consideration as the activities of the Dies Committee investigator, Mr. Edward F. Sullivan.

"Knowing that the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives has before it the question of permitting Mr. Dies to continue the type of activities in which he has been engaged during the past six months, I have felt that members of that committee should have the enclosed memorandum. I respectfully suggest that the Rules Committee investigate Mr. Sullivan and his conduct both before and after his employment by the Dies Committee as a part of the basis for passing upon the activities of that Committee itself."

Oliver charged that although he had given this memorandum to Dies on August 25, nothing had been done about it except for a letter promising that the matter would receive "every consideration."