

HOUSE GROUP APPROVES DIES PROBE FOR '39

Rules Unit Vote Unanimous;
Marcantonio Flays Texan
On Anti-Semitic Inquiry

(I.N.S.) Without a dissenting vote, the House Rules Committee Thursday approved a resolution to continue the special Dies committee investigating un-American activities through 1939. The action came after three days of stormy hearings.

The House is scheduled to act on the resolution tomorrow. Although it carried no provision for funds, a separate resolution will be introduced later appropriating \$100,000 for the inquiry.

Pledges Inquiry

Shortly before the committee acted, Representative Martin Dies (D.), Texas, chairman of the Investigating Committee, pledged the RULES COMMITTEE that "an honest, fearless and independent" inquiry into Nazi, Fascist and Communist activities would be undertaken.

He declared, however, that "no committee of Congress, however constituted, can ever satisfy this group" of critics of the investigation. "No committee," he added, "can do the work it ought to do when it is harassed and attacked by the Executive branch of this Government."

Dies referred to attacks on the committee's conduct made by various Administration officials including President Roosevelt, Secretary of the Interior Ickes, Secretary of Labor Perkins and others.

Flays "Other Probe"

Earlier, Dies had charged that the Department of Justice, now conducting an investigation of its own into subversive activities, has in the last two weeks been investigating witnesses who had appeared before the Dies committee.

"These witnesses have submitted statements to my office in which they declare that they have been subjected to vigorous examination by representatives of the Department of Justice," he said. "This is being done instead of investigating subversive activities as announced. You can't expect witnesses to be very willing when subjected to such harassing tactics."

Conduct Assailed

In opposing continuance of the committee, Representative Marcantonio of New York, only American labor party member of Congress, charged the Dies committee with deliberately avoiding an inquiry into the Silver Shirts of America, an anti-Semitic organization.

Marcantonio read numerous statements from the record of the Dies committee, which he contended "proved conclusively" that Dies had avoided making an inquiry into the silver shirts.

He charged that witnesses were subpoenaed but never called even though the witnesses themselves made efforts to be heard.

Marcantonio charged that the committee had heard a witness against Communist activities who was a silver shirt. He named the witness as Walter Steele, editor of the National Republic.

"Steele swore that he was not connected with any Fascist, Nazi or silver shirt movement, but he is a liar," Marcantonio said.