

Dies Inquiry Wins in House

By 344 to 35

Feb 4/39
 Year's Extension Voted and \$100,000 Fund Is Reported To Be Assured

Full Republican Aid Given to Committee

Chairman Pledges Honest Action and Says 'True Liberals' Need Not Fear

From the Herald Tribune Bureau
 WASHINGTON, Feb. 3. — Amid roaring echoes of the bitter controversy which has raged about the committee's activities since summer, the House voted 344 to 35 today to give the special House committee investigating un-American activities a new one-year lease on life.

The action, viewed as an overwhelming victory for Representative Martin Dies, Democrat, of Texas, chairman of the committee, followed a stormy two-hour discussion interrupted by cheers, boos, hoots and hisses. The committee was charged with trying to "smear" the New Deal and its defenders, in turn, accused the Roosevelt administration forces of attempting to discredit the committee.

Conservative and middle-of-the-road Democrats, with some New Dealers and solid support from all Republicans present, voted for continuing the committee, which incurred the publicly expressed wrath of President Roosevelt when it investigated the sit-down strike situation in Michigan just before the election in which Frank Murphy, now Attorney General, was defeated for re-election as Governor of that state. The New Deal stalwarts who voted against continuing the investigations were led by Representative Adolph J. Sabath, Democrat, of Illinois, chairman of the Rules Committee, but were snowed under.

Efforts to head off a record vote, made by Representative Sabath and Representative Frank Hook, Democrat, of Michigan, through a parliamentary maneuver which would have extended debate and permitted action on a voice vote, were blocked by Representative Joseph W. Martin jr., of Massachusetts, Republican leader. When it became apparent that the resolution was to be adopted by an overwhelming majority, a vote on the previous question was demanded, the result being 320 to 27. Thereupon Representative Martin demanded a roll call on final adoption of the resolution, and the outcome showed only the following votes against it:

- Democrats (34)—Boland, Pennsylvania; Bradley, Pennsylvania; Byron, Maryland; Casey, Massachusetts; Coffee, Washington; Dunn, Pennsylvania; Thomas F. Ford, California; Fries, Illinois; Geyer, California; Havenner, California; Hill, Washington; Izac, California; Keller, Illinois; Larrabee, Indiana; McGranery, Pennsylvania; McKeough, Illinois; Martin, Colorado; Mitchell, Illinois; Murdock, Utah; Myers, Pennsylvania; O'Connor, Montana; O'Day, New York; Robinson, Utah; Sabath, Illinois; Sacks, Pennsylvania.

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with Representative Dies, accorded an ovation when he arose, making the most vigorous defense of his proposal. He pledged a "fearless and honest" inquiry, from which, he insisted, "true liberals have nothing to fear."

Recalling the storm of controversy which arose last year when the committee turned from Fascist and Nazi to Communistic activities in its broad investigation of efforts to promote un-American doctrines in the United States, Mr. Dies said:

"The charge has been made that it was the concerted effort of this committee to smear the New Deal. I challenge any member of this House to read the report and to read the respectful, polite letters which this committee wrote to the heads of departments, in pursuance of the request of the Congress of the United States, placed in the legislation: letters in which we were carrying out your mandate when we requested the heads of the departments to supply us with adequate aid. And then I challenge any member to read the replies, consider the long delays and the attitude of contempt."

Charges Personal Abuse

"Would we have intended or could it have been the design of the committee to smear the Administration when the committee was begging the heads of the departments, New Dealers, like Cummings and Hopkins (former Attorney General Homer S. Cummings and Harry L. Hopkins, then Works Progress Administrator), to furnish us with the investigators and the attorneys to do the investigating? Yet, in spite of the fact, in spite of the record, those who appeared before the Rules Committee saw fit to resort to personal abuse and vilification."

"Let me say to the House that while this committee undoubtedly made some mistakes, yet I am reminded of the fact that another body gave another committee \$165,000 and that the departments of this government supplied that committee with numerous investigators, attorneys and assistants."

Representative Dies referred to

the Civil Liberties Committee of the Senate, headed by Senator Robert M. La Follette jr., Progressive, of Wisconsin, which delved into labor espionage, strike breaking and similar activities. Coincidentally, later today, Attorney General Frank Murphy announced the creation of a new unit in the criminal division of the Department of Justice to pursue a policy of "vigilant action" in prosecution of civil liberties violations. The setting up of such an agency was one of the suggestions advanced by the La Follette committee.

"In spite of all the aid that other committees had," Representative Dies said, arousing applause, "they used certain well known Communists and placed them on the stand to besmear honest American business men. I make this statement not to charge that that committee did it intentionally, but to illustrate the fact that a committee equipped with all the aid they could use nevertheless did make mistakes. You did not, however, hear an outcry, you did not head the hue and cry that has gone up from certain sections and from certain people in this country against this House committee."

"Let me make this further remark, that no chairman, and no committee, can conduct a fair, a fearless and an honest investigation and come here without the enmity and the hatred and the bitterness of those whom it investigates."

Cites Inadequate Funds

"This committee with inadequate funds, struggling under inconceivable abuse, harassed and molested, doing everything in its power to render a patriotic service to this country—in spite of all those odds, this committee gave to the nation a unanimous report, a report based upon facts and not upon opinions or hearsay."

"If this investigation is continued, this committee is going to recognize such mistakes as were made, this committee is going to do everything within its power to continue a fearless, an honest and a complete investigation of what is a definite danger to the stability and the life of America."

new workers' colony. "From English where he laid the cornerstone of a Hess told a crowd at Dortmund, certain ideas from across the ocean. "We are surprised to learn of lucky in settling foreign affairs. Reichstag speech. He has never been effects of Chancellor Adolf Hitler's ago, he attempted to sabotage the expect such reaction when, five days "Mr. Roosevelt certainly did not blood-thirsty opposition. President's war cry than were the more delighted with the American Paris government chiefs were no it seems also that the London and with relentless outspokenness, and "Germany and Italy answered home arisen against him. before has the known opposition at Washington, said: "Apparently he was scared. Never The "National Zeitung," referring to the President's sharp denial in "Scared," Says "Zeitung" Mr. Roosevelt and his clique."

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nia; Schulte, Indiana; Scrugham, Nevada; Shanley, Connecticut; Shannon, Missouri; Sirovich, New York; Tenerowicz, Michigan; Vincent, Kentucky; Voorhis, California, and Wallgren, Washington. American Labor (1)—Marcantonio, New York.

Representatives Hook and Warren G. Magnuson, Democrat, of Washington, voted present.

The Dies resolution for continuing the inquiry, as adopted, represented a minor concession on his part. Originally he had asked for a two-year renewal of authority to conduct the inquiry and \$150,000 with which to finance it, in contrast to the \$25,000 allowed for the work last year. He accepted the one-year limit, but is understood to have been pledged \$100,000 to finance the committee for that period. The resolution did not carry an appropriation, but this will be provided next week, probably Wednesday, by the House Accounts Committee, which is expected to approve the \$100,000 figure. Neither Senate nor Presidential approval is required for the Dies resolution or appropriation, continuance of the investigation being strictly a House matter.

Reappointments Planned

Speaker William B. Bankhead was represented as committed to reappointment of Representatives Dies and the other members, including Representatives Arthur D. Healey, of Massachusetts; John J. Dempsey, of New Mexico, and Joe Starnes, of Alabama, Democrats, and Noah M. Mason, of Illinois, and J. Parnell Thomas, of New Jersey, Republicans.

The debate today engaged more than twenty members, speaking for or against the committee's conduct,

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