

HOUSE VOTES TO EXTEND DIES PROBE A YEAR

Baltimore Sun
Decides, 344 To 35, To
Continue Subversive
Activity Inquiry

Feb 4-9
New Deal, C. I. O. And Rad-
ical Opposition Overrid-
den Amid Cheers

By C. P. TRUSSELL

[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, Feb. 3—The Dies committee on un-American activities, whose months of spectacular investigations had drawn ridicule and bitter denunciation from the Roosevelt Administration, the C. I. O. and radical parties and groups throughout the country, today was given a new lease on life by a 344-to-35 vote of the House of Representatives.

To the accompaniment of salvos of applause, cheers and a few boos—some of them issuing from small collections of spectators in the galleries—the House debated, and then directed the probing body to continue its work for another year.

Money to finance the inquiry will be forthcoming next week. Instead of the \$25,000 allowed last year, the new fund is expected to be four times that amount. Such assurances were given, it has been stated authoritatively, when the committee abandoned its insistence upon an extension of the two years' duration.

Repercussions Feared

Democratic leaders, frankly fearful of 1940 repercussions from committee testimony such as attended the last election, were girded to do battle to hold the continued investigation— from the start it was agreed that the committee "could not be stopped"— to a single year. When the Dies group nodded assent the Administration fight folded.

Not only did the House register one of its most decisive final votes of recent years upon a controversial issue in which the Administration was on the losing side, but by a division of 20 to 27 it resisted attempts by foes of the Dies body to revamp its personnel.

By this vote it halted debate after a single hour and closed the extension resolution to all hostile amendments.

Amendments Barred

Amendments, designed to cause the selection of an entirely new committee or to increase its membership from seven to eleven, were waiting, but could not be presented.

To displace the original members, friends of the committee pointed out, would be for the House to repudiate its own agent. To increase the membership to eleven, they held, would be to "pack" the investigation.

As adopted, the resolution was interpreted by Speaker William B. Bankhead as directing the reappointment of the original committee. One vacancy, due to the defeat of Representative Harold G. Mosier (Dem., Ohio), must be filled.

Other Members Of Body

Other members are:
MARTIN DIES, Dem., Texas, chairman.
JOE STARNES, Dem., Ala.
JOHN J. DEMPSEY, Dem., N. M.
ARTHUR D. HEALEY, Dem., Mass.
NOAH M. MASON, Rep., Ill.
J. PARNELL THOMAS, Rep., N. J.

Voting for abandonment of the investigation were thirty-four Democrats and the lone American Labor party member of Congress, Representative Vito Marcantonio, of New York. No Republicans joined them.

The Maryland delegation split, with Representatives Cole, D'Alesandro, Goldsborough and Kennedy voting for continuance, and Representative Byron,

(Continued on Page 2, Column 5)

Baltimore Sun
Feb 4, 1939

HOUSE VOTES TO EXTEND DIES PROBE A YEAR

Decides, 344 To 35, To Continue Subversive Activity Inquiry

New Deal, C. I. O. And Radical Opposition Overriden Amid Cheers

By C. F. TRUSSELL (Continued from Page 1)

of Western Maryland, going on record against it.

Waste Of Money, He Says
"I realize," Mr. Byron said as the balloting approached, "that the Dies committee has done some very good work, but I am voting to discontinue it for several reasons."

"On the whole the history of the lot of Congressional investigations is—they do more harm than good by the peculiar immunity which allows them to infringe on rights and liberties of our citizens."

"Also, I believe that the continuance of the committee is a waste of public funds and I want to be consistent in my belief that Federal expenditures should be cut whenever possible."

Cry Of "Gag Rule"
Although other opponents of the investigation had spent some six hours giving testimony against it during two days of hearings before the Rules Committee, which yesterday gave the resolution its approval, a cry of "gag rule" went up today.

Floor debate on such legislation is limited by the House rules to one hour. Unanimous consent to extend debate to two hours, requested by the opposition, was denied by Representative Smith (Dem., Wash.). Everyone in the House, Mr. Smith observed, knew what he was going to do, and no amount of debate, he held, would change a single vote.

Blames Administration
One foe—Mr. Marcantonio, national president of the International Labor Defense, an organization cited before the Dies committee as a "Communist front"—blamed the Administration leadership for the investigating committee's victory.

"The undemocratic methods by which this resolution was railroaded, giving only thirteen minutes to the opposition," he said today, "is indicative of the un-American and undemocratic manner in which this committee is going to conduct itself."

"The Democratic leadership of the House will be mighty sorry one year from now for having recreated this Frankenstein monster."

Hook Leads Opposition
Galleries were well filled when Representative Cox (Dem., Ga.), ranking majority member of the rules committee and frequent New Deal critic, called up the resolution.

Representative Sabath (Dem., Ill.), rules committee chairman, unwavering Administration supporter and an avowed enemy of the Dies committee, had delivered the job of guiding the measure to certain victory to the willing hands of the Georgian.

As soon as the measure had attained floor status Representative Hook (Dem., Mich.) assumed opposition leadership to raise a point of order against consideration of the legislation. The Dies Committee, Mr. Hook held, had died with the Seventy-fifth Congress. How, he asked, could a non-existent body be continued? The Speaker overruled his point.

Debate More Personal
Debate began, with opponents attacking, not the objectives of the investigation into un-American activities, but the committee which had conducted it. They were reminded that the personnel had been selected by the Speaker.

Arguments became hotter and observations more personal. Mr. Hook, at one point, was greeted with boos from the Republican side when he charged that the committee had not investigated the Black Legion "because former Gov. Frank Murphy of Michigan (now Attorney General) was not a member of it."

Prober Is Critical
Criticism of the committee came from within its own ranks, Mr. Healey

expressed hope that that body in the

future would be "guided by less sensationalism, fewer appeals to the grandstand and more judicial procedure."

Mr. Mason, the Illinois Republican committee member, arose to denounce as "unjust" an intimation by Mr. Dies that his Democratic colleague, Representative Keller, had "plagiarized" a Communist party pamphlet in assembling material for a recent speech against the investigating committee.

Mr. Keller beamed.
"I believe," Mr. Mason said "that Mr. Keller in his broadcast speech to the nation was using his own words and expressing his own sentiment and should receive full credit, even though the speech and pamphlet followed the same pattern."

Keller Is Furious
Mr. Keller, red and furious, scrambled to his feet to raise a point of personal privilege, while the House howled with glee.

"Under prescribed procedure," drawled the speaker solemnly, "the gentleman should have moved that the offending words be taken down and the question put to a vote of the House."

Mr. Keller made such a motion, but it was too late. He appealed for unanimous consent to present his defense.

"I thought," said Representative Schafer (Rep., Wis.), grinning broadly, "that Mr. Mason was defending him. Therefore, I must object."

Mr. Keller took his seat and the debate entered the wind-up. In a final appeal from the Republican side for continuance of the committee, Representative Gifford (Mass.) boomed:

"Let us make this a Communist maxim:

"Never say Dies!"

Mr. Dies took the floor.

Tells Of Obstacles
From the beginning of the investigation, Mr. Dies told the House, there had been a "well-organized attempt" to "discredit" the committee "by misrepresentation and ridicule." It had sought cooperation, "not only from the Administration," he said, but from organizations which later became involved in the testimony.

"Before the committee ever began its work," he went on, "we invited John L. Lewis (president of the C. I. O.) to appear and give us the benefit of any information that he might have. He did not see fit to dignify the committee with an answer."

"Then, when Labor's Nonpartisan League (political action arm of the C. I. O.) attacked this committee, I wrote and challenged it to appear and deny, under oath, if it could do so, the charges that had been made."

Resorted To Ridicule
"This committee repeatedly extended invitations to those individuals and organizations that were involved to appear and answer the charges. In spite of the invitations, these individuals and organizations did not appear, but resorted instead to the usual campaign of ridicule and misrepresentations."

The committee, Mr. Dies recalled, had been accused of "smearing" the New Deal, and continued:

"I challenge any member of this House 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 that the departments be called upon to supply adequate aid."

"And I challenge any member to read the replies, consider the long delays and the attitude of contempt."

"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 departments—New Dealers like Cummings (Homer S. Cummings, former Attorney General) and Hopkins (Harry L. Hopkins, then Works Progress Administrator and now Secretary of Commerce)—to furnish us with the investigators and attorneys to do the investigating?"

Comparing the \$25,000 granted his committee with the \$155,000 allowed the Senate Civil Liberties (La Follette committee), Mrs. Dies emphasized that department heads cooperated with the Senate body.

"In spite of all the aid that the other committee had," he continued, "they used certain well-known Communists and placed them on the witness stand to besmear honest American businessmen. . . ."

Applause broke out.

"I make this statement," Dies resumed, "not to charge that that com-

mittee did it intentionally, but to illustrate the fact that a committee equipped with all the aid it could use nevertheless did make mistakes."

"You did not, however, hear an outcry, you did not hear the hue and cry that has gone up from certain sections and from certain people in this country against this House committee."

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

If the investigation was continued, the chairman promised, the committee would "recognize such mistakes as were made" and "do everything in its power to continue a fearless, an honest and a complete" inquiry into "what is a definite danger to the stability and the life of America."

Refers To Nazi Charge
"In view of the gentleman's statement," cut in Representative Sabath, "will he not start an investigation of propaganda such as we see in this morning's paper: 'Nazis call F. D. Bolshevist!'"

"We know that is a lie!" Dies turned angrily upon the Rules Committee chairman.

"Let me answer that," he said. "This committee spent a large part of its funds investigating Nazi and Fascist activities in this country. It sent an investigator all over the United States—we went into hundreds of organiza-

Started Propaganda
"In spite of bona fide and honest efforts to investigate Naziism, nevertheless, those who are opposed to an investigation of Communism began to disseminate propaganda all over the country that the committee was sympathetic with the Nazis, sympathetic with the Fascists."

"Why did they do this? What is there about this thing that will bring about such a hue and cry? What is it that condemns the Democratic Administration? What is it? Everybody knows this Administration is not in sympathy with Communism. The Democrats of this nation are Americans, the same as every one of you. And I resent this misrepresentation, I resent it."

"I did not attack a Cabinet officer (there were numerous brushes between the committee and Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, and Miss Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor) until certain Cabinet officers went out of their way to attack an independent agency of this Congress. . . ."

Attack On Congress, Claim
"When 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 an humble and insignificant member of a great body—but this committee, they struck a blow at the greatest deliberative body on earth, and I resent such action."

Another round of applause broke loose.

"I hear," Dies went on, "some members of Congress accuse me of seeking to hurt my Administration or to hurt my party. I am thinking of one for whom I entertain reverence and a deep affection that will never die, who wants to place his country above partisanship."

Look At One Another
Members looked at one another at this identification of the President by means of reference to a quotation which had been interpreted widely during the campaign months as a serving of notice that Mr. Roosevelt would not adhere to party lines where liberal candidates were involved.

"This, Dies continued, "is not a partisan question. Here we are dealing with the life of America, with the fundamentals, with that concerning which all men of all parties, of all races and of all creeds can unite to defend."

MURPHY ACTS TO DEFEND U. S. CIVIL LIBERTIES

Sets Up Unit To Prosecute Infringement Of Constitutional Rights

Attorney General Also Plans Probe Of Conditions In Federal Courts

By GERALD GRIFFIN (Continued from Page 1)

Columbia. He attended the local public schools and graduated in 1924 from the National University Law School. He practiced law here from 1924 until 1934, when he was appointed an assistant United States Attorney.

He served in that office until 1936, when he was appointed a special assistant to the Attorney General and a member of the trial section of the criminal division. He is a former vice-president of the District of Columbia Bar Association and has been on the faculty of the Washington College of Law since 1932.

Prober Not Named

The attorney who will direct the inquiry into the Federal judiciary has not been selected. Mr. Murphy said he intends to select, for this assignment, "an outstanding member of the bar" who will act directly under the Attorney General and will have complete charge of such cases.

Mr. Murphy expressed confidence in the "general integrity" of the judiciary, notwithstanding the "disturbing character" of the charges filed against Judge Manton. He said he was determined, however, to take prompt and vigorous measures wherever there is cause to believe that unhealthy conditions and irregularities exist, in order that public confidence in the administration of Federal justice shall not be impaired.

"To this end," the department's statement said, "he has ordered an investigation of any conditions that appear to warrant inquiry."

Judge Manton Accused

The special assistant to be appointed to handle all matters related to this investigation will presumably be appointed in the near future, so that he may have a hand in the Justice Department's inquiry into Judge Manton's conduct.

Judge Manton, whose resignation was accepted last Tuesday by President Roosevelt, to be effective February 7, was accused of accepting more than \$400,000 in loans from persons interested in cases which came before his court.

He has categorically denied any wrongdoing, but said he resigned rather than be the central figure in a controversy which would weaken public confidence in the general administration of justice.

Dewey Also Interested

Attorney General Murphy, before today's announcement, already had stated that a "thorough investigation" of this case would be made. A Federal grand jury in New York now is examining the judge's conduct to determine whether there had been violations of criminal law on the part of the judge or other persons connected with the case.

Thomas E. Dewey, New York's District Attorney, also has been inquiring into the case. Mr. Dewey made public the charges against Judge Manton in a letter written last Sunday to Representative Sumners (Dem., Texas), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.