

American Newspapers Ridicule Dies; Demand McCuistion Trial

The American press for the past week have had a Roman holiday at the expense of Martin Dies and his alleged committee to investigate alleged "un-Americanism" in organized labor.

To the New Orleans Item, the National Maritime Union is exceptionally grateful for the way they have handled the ridiculous statements of discredited witnesses which have appeared before the committee, and especially their insistent demands that the murderers of Phil Carey be brought to justice.

In an editorial, the paper condemns the committee for their witch hunt very clearly expresses the views of every union member. The editorial reads in part:

If Representative Dies or any other member of his committee wants to come to New Orleans to find out if the McCuistion arrest was made to discredit the committee or any official protection is given the Communists here, he will be welcome. We think however, that the committee would be thoroughly disappointed in what it would find. New Orleans has never been a hotbed of Communism, and if the committee is well informed it knows that the un-American agitator has always encountered insurmountable obstacles here.

Pertinent facts in the matter are these: That Philip Carey, a maritime union official, was murdered on the streets of New Orleans six weeks ago, following a factional row in the union, and up to this time the New Orleans police have not jailed the three attackers. McCuistion was one of the ousted officials, and by reason of the description given by witnesses, the police have been looking for him for some time. That their efforts do not seem to have been an example of alert crime detection or law enforcement, is beside any point that concerns the Dies committee. That is a matter that interests this state and city.

In any case, when McCuistion's presence in Washington was made known to the police, Chief of Detectives Grosch filed murder charges against him and asked his return to New Orleans. That was eminently proper since New Orleans is not a city in which gang murders have become the custom, and not one disposed to let gangsterism of that kind go unpunished. We think that if there is any question of precedence, a murder charge

FBI agent at the conclusion of the ex-union official's testimony, Chairman Dies charged that this action was taken to discredit his committee and blamed the FBI. Another member of the committee pounded the table and said, "This whole thing not only smells to high heaven but it stinks." The FBI later withdrew on the ground that McCuistion was in the custody of the Washington police before it intervened under the Lindberg law. Probably New Orleans citizens would be much interested to know why a request for McCuistion's detention "stinks," or what interest the local police could have in protecting Communists. Sometimes Mr. Dies seems obsessed with the idea that half the people in the country are plotting to thwart his committee's work. Perhaps if he comes here he will let the public in on the evil forces that are trying so hard to discredit his efforts. Meantime we hope McCuistion is returned here and that the police begin to get to the bottom of the Carey murder.

Suggest Dies Probe Murders In Gulf, Not Protect Goon

NEW ORLEANS—Joseph Rose, NMU delegate, issued today, Wednesday, the following statement in connection with the visit of Representative Dies to the city.

"Mr. Dies might better have remained in Washington to investigate the un-Americanism of the shipowners who are trying to transfer registry of their ships to a foreign country in order to evade the neutrality legislation and to avoid maintaining an American wage scale and American working conditions aboard their ships.

"However, since he has chosen to come to New Orleans we hope that he will really investigate the McCuistion case and not attempt to interfere with bringing to justice the murderers of Philip Carey.

"In connection with the activities of William McCuistion and his chain gang, we suggest that he look into the mysterious disappearance last spring of Robert Eggleston, former NMU bookkeeper; that he investigate the death by beating of John Synchron, youthful member of the NMU; and that he interview the numerous victims of McCuistion's chain gang.

"We suggest he go to Corpus Christi, Texas, where last June McCuistion led a gang of 20 men into the port, armed with guns, blackjacks and brass knuckles, in an attempt to wreck the Union; to Port Arthur, Texas, where McCuistion is alleged to be implicated in the shooting of an NMU member last August; or to any Gulf port and inquire into the terroristic activities of McCuistion and his chain gang against the NMU membership.

"If Mr. Dies is really concerned about civil liberties, we suggest that after looking into the shocking situation here, that he go home to Texas and investigate the recent burning by vigilantes of the NMU hall in Baytown; the beating of an NMU organizer in Aransas Pass by Standard Oil dollar a year men; and the situation in Port Arthur, Texas, where last spring an NMU member had to seek refuge in the county jail after the city police had threatened to kill him. These are a few leads for Mr. Dies. We can give him plenty more.

"It seems most peculiar, to say the least, that Mr. Dies should come to a city where labor's civil rights have been consistently violated solely for the purpose of protecting the 'civil rights' of a murder suspect."