

Sabath Thinks Roosevelt Cool To Dies Work

Rules Chairman Opposes Further Inquiry, but Members Plan Quick Action

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—While President Roosevelt declined to put himself on record today as to what he thought should be done about continuation of the House committee investigating un-American activities, somewhat conflicting reports were given by members of Congress who had talked to him today on the subject.

Representative John J. Dempsey, Democrat, of New Mexico, and a member of the committee of which Representative Martin Dies, Democrat, of Texas, is chairman, said: "The President is not taking any interest in the matter, one way or the other. He doesn't care whether the life of the committee is ended or extended." The New Mexico Congressman said that he had been authorized by the White House to make this statement.

On the other hand, Representative Adolph J. Sabath, Democrat, of Illinois, chairman of the House Rules Committee, came from a conference with the Chief Executive predicting that the resolution continuing the Dies committee would not be taken up by his committee for some time yet.

"And I think also the President is not anxious for any quick action," he added.

Mr. Sabath also suggested that any money appropriated for the continuance of the Dies committee would be "money thrown away," he said that he thought the Department of Justice was better equipped to take over the investigation of subversive activities than the Dies committee.

The only time mentioned by the rules committee chairman for considering the matter of "clearance" for the Dies committee resolution was "when Dies returns."

At present Representative Dies is in Texas, trying to regain his health which, reports say, has been considerably undermined by his strenuous two years of investigations and speakings on the subject of Communist and Nazi penetrations of this country. A heart ailment followed his making speeches too soon after an operation for appendicitis.

Quick to answer Mr. Sabath was Representative E. E. Cox, Democrat, of Georgia, an influential member of the Rules Committee. Mr. Cox predicted flatly that the hearings on the Dies committee extension would begin promptly at noon Monday. It only required the votes of two other members, beside himself, he said, to force the hearings and he had more than enough votes lined up.

When President Roosevelt was asked at his press conference today to comment on the continuance of the Dies Committee he declined to put himself on record for or against continuance, saying it was a matter for the House to decide.

However, one member of the committee, Representative Joe Starnes, Democrat, of Alabama, who is the acting chairman, inclined to the opinion that Mr. Sabath's remarks on the White House steps showed strengthening of the Presidential opposition to the committee.

The President has hotly denounced the committee on at least two occasions.

From all indications on Capitol Hill, the Dies committee will receive an overwhelming vote of confidence and will be continued.

Dies Quiz to Stay, Rayburn Predicts

House Majority Leader Sam Rayburn (D.), of Texas, predicted last night the Dies committee investigation of un-American activities would be extended.

ALBANY MOVE BACKS DIES

Bipartisan Plea for Continuance of Inquiry

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ALBANY, Jan. 8.—A joint resolution memorializing Congress to continue the Dies committee for another year was offered in the Legislature tonight. It was sponsored by Assemblyman Wilson of Westchester, Republican, and Senator McNaboe of New York, Democrat.

It declared that the Dies committee had "established by proofs before it that large numbers of individuals are engaged in activities within our borders which are inimical to the safety and security of the government of the United States and the future of our democracy is thus being threatened."

A similar resolution was introduced last year, but before action was taken on it Congress voted to continue the committee.

Assemblyman Burney, Erie Republican, reintroduced his demand for the appointment of a committee of the Legislature to investigate un-American activities within the State.

\$500 Apiece for Spies

By the United Press.

TOLEDO.—Five hundred dollars a head has been offered here for the capture and conviction of spies and saboteurs by the National Protective League, organized by a group of Ohio business men and industrialists.

Bridges' Ruling Stirrs Congress Repercussions

Dempsey, Burke, Capper Surprised at News Union Head Is Not Communist

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The door to possible deportation of Harry Bridges, Australian-born west coast Congress of Industrial Organizations leader, appeared tonight to have been closed by a trial examiner's finding that he is not a Communist, but there were indications that the decision might have repercussions in Congress.

The reaction of legislators already here for the regular session of Congress beginning next Wednesday was varied, but some were frankly incredulous that Dean James M. Landis, of Harvard Law School, who sat as a special Labor Department examiner in the Bridges case, could have cleared him of any affiliation with the Communist party.

Representative John J. Dempsey, Democrat, of New Mexico, commented that the House committee investigating un-American activities had "rather conclusive" testimony that Bridges had been a Communist and should be deported.

But Senator Edward R. Burke, (Continued on page 8, column 3)