

DA

TROTSKY WILL GIVE TESTIMONY TO DIES

James 12/8/39.
Accepts as 'a Political Duty' a Bid to Appear Before House Group at Austin, Texas

TO TALK ON 'STALINISM'

He Denies Giving Documents to Committee and Says He Has No Data on Latin America

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES. MEXICO CITY, Dec. 7—In a statement to the press today, Leon Trotsky revealed that he had accepted an invitation to testify before the Dies committee at Austin, Texas. He asserted, however, that he did not intend to make any depositions concerning the activities of Mexican or Latin-American Communists, nor about the oil question, concerning which he said he did not possess a single document. He added that no representative of the Dies committee had visited him in Mexico and that if he appeared before the committee it would be to testify exclusively on the history of Stalinism.

Accepts as 'Political Duty'

By The Associated Press.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 7 (AP)—Leon Trotsky, exiled former Soviet War Minister, said in a statement tonight that he had accepted "as a political duty" an invitation to appear at Austin, Texas, before the Dies House Committee Investigating Un-American Activities. He declared, however, that any implications that he had been turning over documents to the committee "represent a pure fabrication from beginning to end."

[Robert E. Stripling, secretary to Mr. Dies, said yesterday that any hearing with Mr. Trotsky and Diego Rivera, Mexican painter, as witnesses, would be aimed at authenticating documents obtained by committee investigators who had conferred with Mr. Trotsky and Mr. Rivera.]

Mr. Trotsky made it clear that any testimony he gave before the committee would be "about the history of Stalinism, but in no case about the inner life of Latin-American countries.

"I never had and do not have a single document concerning the activities of Latin-American communists and I could in no way present anything on this before the committee," he stated.

Mr. Trotsky said that J. B. Matthews, chief investigator of the

committee, had telegraphed him Oct. 12, inviting him to appear to enable the committee to "have a complete record of the history of Stalinism."

He said that the telegram added that the committee "invites you to answer questions which can be submitted to you in advance if you so desire."

"Your name has been mentioned frequently by such witnesses as Earl Browder (general secretary of the Communist party in the United States) and William Z. Foster (member of the permanent executive committee of the Third Internationale)," the telegram was quoted as saying. "This committee will accord you an opportunity to answer their charges."

Mr. Trotsky's statement added that "independently of the political tendency of the chairman of this committee I could not find it permissible to avoid appearing as a witness in a public investigation."

He added: "I have never had and I do not have any connection with unmasking of the real or pretended plans of Latin-American Communists. If I should actually have to appear as a witness before the Dies Committee it would be upon questions specified in the above quoted telegram bearing the signature of Mr. Matthews."

West Point Waiter Held in Theft

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW CITY, N. Y., Dec. 7—Accused of taking \$16 from a lunch wagon in West Haverstraw Sunday night in an armed hold-up, James With, 19 years old, a waiter in a dining hall at the United States Military Academy at West Point, and Robert Fairweather, 21, of Middletown, a former waiter there, were held without bail for the grand jury on a first-degree robbery charge here today. The men were arrested by an Orange town policeman who saw them sitting in an automobile reading a newspaper account of the hold-up. An alarm had been broadcast for the car.

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