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First Lady at Dies Probe; Hears 'Nothing New,' She Says After Session

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30 (UP).— Unannounced and uninvited, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt strolled into the Dies Committee hearing room today, heard the American Youth Congress described as "a Communist - dominated organization" and then took six of its officials to lunch with her at the White House.

After listening for an hour Mrs. Roosevelt departed after commenting that she had "heard nothing new."

Committee members, who have taken no action on Mrs. Roosevelt's offer to testify before them, were surprised when she walked in the room and took a seat between William W. Hinckley, former chairman of the AYC, and Jack McMichael, its present head.

JUST A SPECTATOR

Acting Chairman Joseph A. Starnes, D., Ala., presiding in the

absence of Chairman Martin Dies, D., Tex., who disclosed today that his physicians have ordered him to take a month's rest, invited the first lady to sit at the committee table.

"Oh, no, thank you," she replied. "I just came to listen."

The guests were McMichael; Hinckley; Mrs. Hinckley; Frances Williams, administrative secretary of the AYC; Joseph Cadden, executive secretary and Joseph P. Lash, national secretary of the American Students Union.

Mrs. Roosevelt said when she left the committee room that the group had not invited her to attend the hearing.

"I came on my own as a spectator," she said. "I happened to know that the Youth Congress group was notified of the hearing only between 4:30 and 5 P. M. yesterday. I wanted to see how they

would conduct themselves as a group. It is not always easy to avail oneself of an opportunity on such short notice, particularly as Bill Hinckley has been sick."

"What did you think of the testimony?"

"Of course I was here only a short time," she said. "I heard nothing new. I'm just an interested spectator."

Word that Mrs. Roosevelt—first President's wife in history to attend congressional committee meetings — was in the caucus room spread through the Capitol and in a few minutes the original audience of 50 persons was tripled.

Pictures were taken while she engaged in animated conversation with McMichael and Hinckley, and when the hearing ended she posed with Starnes, who said yesterday he knew of no reason why she should testify.