

FIRST LADY 'CLEARS' YOUTH CONGRESS

Mrs. Roosevelt Investigated
Group and Found No Trace of
'Outside Control,' She Says

SAW NO UNAMERICANISM

Continuance of Dies Inquiry
'Up to Congress'—She Decries
Soviet Invasion of Finland

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 — Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt told reporters today that she had investigated the American Youth Congress long before the Dies committee had undertaken the job and had found nothing "to indicate any outside control."

Witnesses before the Dies committee have contended that the organization is dominated by Communists.

"I know a great many of the young people working as officers or with the officers, as well as many young people in many other organizations who belong to the congress," Mrs. Roosevelt said. "I have read all the literature put out by the congress in the last few years. I have read all the resolutions passed at every meeting since the first congress, including the last one."

"I have watched the programs of work as they were proposed and as they were carried out under a limited budget. I found nothing to indicate any outside control and I found nothing that was not within the actions which any American citizen could take with propriety."

The First Lady explained that she did not always agree with the young leaders, but that she had read all their financial statements, which are audited, and knew the sources of income and how it was spent.

Committeemen Complimented

Her investigation, Mrs. Roosevelt said, was made when she first lent her name to the congress and began working with it several years ago.

"What else," she asked her listeners, "can one do to keep from being duped?"

Mrs. Roosevelt, who was a spectator at Dies committee hearings last week when Youth Congress leaders were on the stand, commented today that committee members and the committee counsel, Rhea Whitley, seemed to be very courteous and helpful in putting their questions. Eventually, she said, J. B. Matthews, committee investigator whom she had criticized, put his questions very courteously.

Asked if she thought the Dies committee should be continued, Mrs. Roosevelt said it was not up to her to say, but up to Congress. The committee, which held its last scheduled meeting Saturday, expires in January.

The subject of Russia's invasion of Finland came up and Mrs. Roosevelt said she thought it a very sad situation. She told questioners she thought bombing of civilians was a very terrible thing and wished we could become more civilized.

Mrs. Roosevelt said that she and the President hoped to be joined at Christmas by at least three of their children and their families—Anna Roosevelt (Mrs. John) Boettiger of Seattle, Franklin Roosevelt Jr. and his wife, the former Ethel du Pont, of Charlottesville, Va., and John Roosevelt and his wife, the former Anne Clark, of Boston.

Reporting to her press conference regarding the price of sugar, as she had promised last week, Mrs. Roosevelt said she had learned only that the wholesale price was at its pre-war level. Retail prices are 10 per cent higher than at the beginning of the war, she said, but still coming down. She said that experts could give no real answer for the difference, but suggested that some small stores bought sugar at the high wholesale price and were still selling that sugar.

A reporter asked the First Lady whether she thought the president and student body of Vassar College were radical, as some persons have contended. She replied that she certainly did not think Dr. Henry N. MacCracken, Vassar president, was a Communist.

She added that she did not know members of the student body so well, but that those she knew ran the gamut from extreme conservatism to radicalism. She said she had not yet found a college which did not run that gamut. College students are young, she laughed, and may change.