

DIES COMMITTEE ASSAILED;  
PROBE CALLED UN-AMERICAN

WASHINGTON, Dec.--(Charles Alexander for CMA)--The long list of prominent Americans who have condemned the Dies Committee was increased this week when Dean Gauss of Princeton University scathingly denounced the heresy-hunting body as "a glaring example of un-American activity." Dean Gauss' biting remarks were made as he addressed the 163rd celebration of the founding of Phi Beta Kappa at the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg, Va.

Contrasting the ideals of Thomas Jefferson with the activities of Dies, the Princeton educator declared:

"This attempt by the Dies Committee to define by government process just what all good Americans must do or believe is today's most glaring example of un-American activity."

The Texan's procedure of publicizing attacks on organizations without hearing testimony from officials of any of the bodies named or even consulting with members of his committee drew fire from a number of public figures, including President Roosevelt, Mrs. Roosevelt, Secretary of the Interior Ickes, Representative Voorhis, a member of the Dies Committee, and officials of several consumers groups attacked in the latest Dies' report.

Asserting that "if anything is un-democratic in the world certainly this procedure is," Voorhis stated that the committee had not held a single meeting on any of the matters contained in Dies' report, nor were the persons mentioned called to testify. He declared that the document was "pure and simple the opinion" of J. B. Matthews, chief investigator of the committee, who was expelled from a consumer body several years ago for strike-breaking. Voorhis added that the only committee member who saw the report before it was made public was Dies.

Progressive observers saw in the latest Dies report an attempt to pull William Randolph Hearst's chestnuts out of the fire and to hamper the effective work of consumers organizations in combatting the fleecing of the people by war profiteers.

Dies Ignores Peonage Charge

It was pointed out that Hearst's "Good Housekeeping" magazine was being prosecuted for fraudulent advertising practices on the basis of evidence turned over to the Federal Trade Commission by several consumers groups, and that the action of Dies in branding these bodies as "subversive movements" was designed to impeach their integrity.

Further proof that Dies has no intention of investigating the un-American practices of southern planters towards negroes was given this week when he refused to reply to a telegram from the Abolish Peonage Committee urging an inquiry into peonage conditions in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. The anti-Peonage body had wired the Texas Congressman insisting he undertake such a probe, and indicating its readiness to furnish witnesses to testify.

Meanwhile Labor continued to pound the committee, denouncing its activities and urging that it be scrapped. A resolution adopted at a sub-regional conference of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, CIO, meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, attacked the committee for "combing the underworld for criminals, stoolpigeons and murderers to testify against good American citizens." The resolution called upon "our Representatives in Congress to refuse to grant the Dies Committee any further funds for its sinister un-American activities."

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