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Dies' Pay Dirt.

The Dies Committee has been guilty of many silly and un-American performances, such as trying to put the Communist brand on everybody who might at some time have joined a consumers' society, a student discussion group or an organization allegedly working for democracy and peace.

Yet at the same time the committee has performed some very valuable public services—one of which has been to disclose to unsuspecting citizens that in joining organizations with high-sounding names and purposes they sometimes become the dupes of the Eolos who run those organizations.

Through its investigations the committee has flushed out several labor union borers-from-within and punctured the pretensions of a great many tin-pot Hitlers, two-bit Stalins and other dues-collecting adventurers.

It is no reflection on District Attorney Dewey, who sent Nazi bund leader Fritz Kuhn to jail, to recall that Mr. Dies was the first one who tackled that bozo. Nor does it detract from the good record of Attorney General Murphy and FBI director Hoover to mention the fact that it was the committee's disclosures which first pointed to the probability of widespread spy and sabotage activities.

From one day's grist of news are stories of two Russian propagandists pleading guilty to violation of the alien registration law, paying fines of \$2500 and promising to leave the country, and of a grand jury preparing to hear evidence against foreign-agent saboteurs in the aviation, automobile and munitions industries. It may be more than a coincidence that the Dies revelations aroused public opinion before things like that started happening.

And now the committee has put the State Department and immigration service on notice by calling attention to the activities of a Nazi agent named Colin Ross, who heretofore has been permitted to travel freely in this country, taking and exhibiting propaganda films and making camera recordings of important industrial and national-defense secrets.

Yes, net, the Dies Committee has been doing good work. Its authority to investigate un-American activities, which expires with the convening of Congress, should be continued.

The committee has pulled out several red herrings, but it also has hooked a number of live and squirming fish.