

719 H. J.  
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### Where Are the Witch Hunters?

If the full report of the Dies committee to Congress is properly presented by the summary made public yesterday one can applaud the document as both a fair and highly valuable presentation of the facts the committee has unearthed. Certainly, there is nothing about the summary to suggest that the committee has been indulging in a witch hunt or that it has confused un-Americanism with radicalism. In quite the proper proportion it has divided its attention between the subversive activities of the Right and those of the Left, sparing neither in its findings, while careful to discriminate between the innocent and the guilty on both sides. We think it has gone a long way to disarm even Mrs. Roosevelt's criticism.

Its major finding, as one might have expected, is that the German-American Bund and the Communist party are agents of foreign powers and should be controlled. Who among us who has followed the committee's hearings without prejudice will quarrel with this? The evidence strongly supports the fact and amply justifies the recommendation. This country can no longer afford to treat these totalitarian agencies as if they were merely dissident groups of Americans. They require a control which at least prevents their further masquerade.

The committee is generous, and we think rightly, toward the Congress of Industrial Organizations, saying the overwhelming majority of its members, including its president, are neither Communists nor Communist sympathizers. Of the C. I. O.'s forty-eight unions it picks out only twelve as "more than tinged with Communism." Much the same opinion is expressed concerning the American Youth Congress, and no doubt is in line with its conclusion that, due to the present international situation, Communist-Nazi influence in the United States is decidedly on the wane, and that "not more than 1,000,000 Americans can be said to be seriously affected" by it.

The lack of hysteria in this reassuring observation renders all the more deserving of respect the committee's charges of subversive conduct and objectives against specific individuals and groups and strengthens its demand that it be continued so that the present "confusion" among subversive organizations may be "turned into a complete rout." The fact that this demand, with the rest of the summary, is signed by all members of the committee, those who have objected to certain aspects of its procedure as well as their more militant brethren, should clinch the argument for granting it.