

# HIGH FEDERAL AIDES ARE LINKED TO REDS AT HOUSE HEARING

Mason of the Dies Committee Names Eight as Members of League for Peace

*Aug 18 1938*  
WPA UNION IS ATTACKED

Workers Alliance Is Ruled by Communists, Says Witness for American Legion

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES  
WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—The special House committee investigating un-American activities heard charges today that public funds were being used to finance communism in the United States; that prominent Federal officials were members of the American League for Peace and Democracy, alleged to be part of the Communist "front" in this country; that the Workers Alliance, with a membership of about 800,000, was controlled by Communists; and that the American Students Union, with a reported membership of 20,000, was organized by Communists.

Representative Noah M. Mason of Illinois, a member of the committee, charged that eight high ranking Federal officials were members of the American League for Peace and Democracy, which, he asserted, is being used to advance the cause of Communists in the United States.

**Lists Federal Officials**  
Mr. Mason named those officials as follows:  
Oscar Chapman, Assistant Secretary of Commerce.  
Frederick A. Slicox, chief of the Forest Service.  
Harry Lambertson, assistant administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration, who, Mr. Mason said, is the chairman of the organization in Washington.  
John Carmody, administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration.  
Mary Anderson, director of the Woman's Bureau, Department of Labor.  
Robert Marshall, chief of the Public Lands Service of the Department of Agriculture.  
Alice Barrows of the Office of Education.  
Dallas W. Smythe, economist of the Central Statistical Bureau, who, Mr. Mason said, is the vice president of the Washington unit of the organization.

Representative Dies, chairman of the committee, said that the activities of the league would be investigated and expressed the opinion that Federal officials "who had joined the organization obviously were not familiar with the dominating influence behind the league."

**Legion Witness Links WPA**  
Homes L. Chaillaux, Americanism director of the American Legion, was in the witness chair when Mr. Mason made his charges. Mr. Chaillaux was asked by Mr. Mason if the Workers Alliance was controlled by Communists.

"It is controlled," replied Mr. Chaillaux, "by the Communist party, although, in my opinion, the great majority of its 800,000 members do not know that this is the case."

"In other words," said Chairman Dies, who had in mind the fact that the membership of the Workers Alliance is made up largely of WPA workers, "public funds are being used to further communism in this country?"

"That is true," said Mr. Chaillaux, who added that the Alliance represented itself as a collective bargaining agency for WPA workers.

Mr. Chaillaux said that David Lasser, president of the Workers Alliance, had declared he was not a Communist. He added:

"However, Lasser recently returned from a trip to Russia and was high in his praise of the Soviet Republic. The Communists are playing the WPA to the limit."

**Says Wide Drive Is Under Way**  
Sinister forces, Mr. Chaillaux declared, are expending greater efforts than ever before to gain a foothold in their campaign to wreck the nation.

Mr. Chaillaux presented a list of organizations, all of them, he testified, connected directly or indirectly with the American Communist party. They included the Workers Alliance, the National Congress for Unemployment and Social Insurance, the International Labor Defense, the American League for Peace and Democracy, the American Student Union and the American Youth Congress.

It was at this point that Representative Mason made his charges involving the membership of Federal officials in the League for Peace and Democracy.

"Is it not true," Mr. Mason asked, "that the American League for Peace and Democracy is an arm of the so-called popular front of the Communist party?"

"That is true," the witness answered.

"A common trait characterizes

Continued on Page Three

# HIGH FEDERAL AIDES ARE LINKED TO REDS

Continued From Page One

all Communist-dominated organizations," Mr. Chaillaux continued. "They are not interested in abolishing war, they are not interested in promoting peace and democracy, they are not interested in eliminating nazism or fascism, they are interested only in hiding their Communist support."

**League Member Denies Red Link**

Representative Mason asserted that Mr. Marshall, of the Department of Agriculture Land Service, has said he was in favor of the public ownership of all oil lands, not only in the United States, but in Mexico.

"Is it true," asked Representative Thomas of New Jersey, "that the files of the American Legion contain the names and records of certain Federal employes who are engaged in Communist activities?"

"I have not personally seen such files, but I have had reports from Legion officials in Washington that some employes are engaged in such activities," Mr. Chaillaux replied. "I suggest that you call George Malloy and Thomas Roberts of the District of Columbia Department of the Legion."

Mr. Lambertson denied that the organization is Communist. He said the charge was ridiculous.

He estimated the Washington unit membership as about 400. There are, he said, quite a number of "government people" in the organization.

The policy of the organization is based on the "quarantine the aggressor" policy suggested by President Roosevelt in a speech at Chicago last year, Mr. Lambertson said.

**Communist Angles Denied**

Mr. Chapman said he believed himself to be a member of the league, but did not recall signing a membership card.

"I never attended a meeting—but that is not said in the way of defense," he testified. "I've been very interested in the cause and I don't know of any Communists in the organization."

Mr. Chapman said he was to have been chairman of a league meeting last June 27, which was addressed by Vincente Lombardo Toledano, Mexican labor leader, but was prevented from doing so by his absence from town.

Mary Anderson of the Women's Bureau denied that she is a league member.

"I have no connection with it," she said. "But for the life of me I can't see anything un-American about being in favor of either peace or democracy."

Mr. Smythe said it is a "matter of common knowledge that the league is not a Communist organization." He said he is "proud" to be a league member and its local vice president.

**Wait Data on Bridges**

The committee heard in executive session Miss Marget Kerr of Los Angeles, who was expected to give important information on the maritime labor situation on the Pacific coast. Miss Kerr did not have complete records of her information, however, and was excused until she can get facts from California.

The records bear on the case of Harry Bridges, the Pacific coast labor leader.

The committee called on the Department of Labor today to submit its files bearing on certain matters. One of the files asked for is understood to be that concerning Mr. Bridges. The department said it would produce the records tomorrow.

Chairman Dies also said that the committee would seek to identify persons of alien citizenship who are engaged in communist activities and would submit their names to the proper authorities for action under the deportation clauses of the Immigration Law.

There are said to be hundreds, if not thousands, of such who are not citizens, now active in furthering Communist, Nazi, Fascist, and other

"un-American" movements in this country.

They are alleged to be active in labor organizations, universities, colleges and schools, the merchant marine and in politics.

The chairman said that the committee hopes to identify these persons and expressed the opinion that Congress will, if necessary, direct action involving deportation in all cases where the facts warrant such a course.

It was noted that the testimony is today it had sent a telegram to the Dies committee challenging it to substantiate charges made that motion-picture figures had contributed financial aid to communistic organizations.

**Hollywood Group Protests**  
By The Associated Press.

HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 17.—The Hollywood Anti-Nazi League said today it had sent a telegram to the Dies committee challenging it to substantiate charges made that motion-picture figures had contributed financial aid to communistic organizations.

"We intend to carry on the fight Aug. 24 at a mass meeting," said the telegram. "Failure to meet our challenge can only be interpreted as a misuse by the Dies committee of public funds to aid reactionary, fascist interests contrary to the law."

Members of the league include Fredric March, James Cagney, Franchot Tone, Paul Muni, Donald Ogden Stewart and Irving Berlin.

**Leaders Here Assail Frey**

Morris Muster, international president of the United Furniture Workers of America, denied yesterday the allegation of John P. Frey before the Dies committee that he was a Communist.

"I am not a Communist, never have been a Communist and, contrary to Mr. Frey's statement, every one in New York knows I'm not a Communist."

Willis R. Morgan, president of the Workers Alliance of Greater New York, assailed Mr. Frey as "one of the most dangerous enemies of the unemployed in this country."

"Mr. Frey belongs to that small clique of reactionaries heading the A. F. of L. which fought against the principles of social security and unemployment insurance in 1931," he said.

"He has consistently opposed the organization of the unemployed since 1929, and has done nothing to aid the unemployed during his long tenure in the A. F. of L."