

Martin Dies in His Glory

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THESE are glorious days for Martin Dies. The crude fiddler of hysteria and hatred is now first violinist in Washington's savage symphony. Emboldened by his fine position, he is coolly asking Congress to hand over \$100,000 so his committee can hunt out "fifth columns" in America. It isn't enough that Mr. Dies got \$75,000 at the beginning of this session for his own fifth-column work on democracy. It isn't enough that he obtained this money on a promise to instill a little decency into the committee's procedure, and promptly broke his word. It isn't enough that FDR, Attorney General Jackson, and all the Diesmen in the administration are now engaged in Martin's work. No: the gentleman from Texas needs \$100,000—for what? To put over an investigation of the nine thousand Americans in West Virginia who exercised their constitutional right of signing the petition which placed the Communist Party on the state ballot. To uncover more "Red Spy Rings" such as Nicholas (van der Lubbe) Dozenberg reveals to the committee in secret sessions. To outdo, if possible, the frenzied persecutors of America's foreign born by promoting his own omnibus bill directed at "aliens." These were his activities for just one week, the week following Roosevelt's "national defense" scare speech. The suave gentleman from Hyde Park is conducting the symphony, but make no mistake about it: Dixie's Demagogue No. 1 composed the music and will get all the recognition due him.

Meanwhile, the nation's "little Dies" grow bigger. In California the Yorty committee has had eighteen leading officers of the State, County, and Municipal Workers of America (CIO) arrested for refusing to give up their union's membership lists and other records. The officers, employees of the State Relief Administration, are charged with "contempt of the legislature," a violation of the penal code. The committee's intention to use the membership names as a blacklist is proved in advance by the very fact that the State Relief Administration has made a practice of dismissing every known member of the union from its staff.