

# Starnes and Costello Named to Probe CIO Political Activities

## Two of 3 Investigators Lost Seats in Face of Group's Opposition

By the Associated Press.

A three-man subcommittee, two of whose members recently were defeated for renomination in the face of CIO opposition, was named today to make a Dies Committee investigation of the CIO's Political Action Committee.

From his home in Texas, Chairman Dies sent word that the investigation, a continuance of an earlier inquiry by the House Committee on un-American Activities, would be made by Representatives Starnes, Democrat, Alabama; Costello, Democrat, California, and Thomas, Republican, New Jersey, or Busbey, Republican, Illinois. Mr. Starnes and Mr. Costello were defeated. Mr. Dies also had been made a CIO target at the time he announced he would not seek re-election because of poor health.

### Work Starts Soon.

Mr. Dies said the subcommittee, of which Mr. Starnes will be chairman, probably would begin its work next week and report within the next month or two to the full committee.

The Texan announced appointment of the committee as he issued an ultimatum to Attorney General Biddle to prosecute, under election statutes, the Political Action Committee and Government officials he said have been active in PAC work.

Mr. Dies said his committee would take "appropriate action" unless the Justice Department proceeds within 30 days on the basis of evidence gathered by the committee.

Mr. Biddle recently reported that a department investigation found no evidence of law-breaking by the PAC.

Unless Mr. Biddle complies with the committee's recommendations for prosecution, Mr. Dies said, the committee will press for enactment

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## Dies

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of legislation "to divorce the Government from the CIO and to separate New Deal leaders from the Political Action Committee."

The Legislation he has in mind, he explained, would make it a penitentiary offense for an individual to be active in the PAC while holding a Federal job.

"The way they are operating now has become a racket," Mr. Dies said. "These people get on the Government payroll and then quit their jobs to go to work with the PAC. After the election they expect to go back to their Government work. It is just a trick to perpetuate the New Deal in power."

### Dirkstein Assails Tactics.

The Dies committee's action in subpoenaing records of the Political Action Committee's telephone calls was attacked in the House by Representative Dickstein, Democrat, of New York.

Mr. Dies, Mr. Dickstein declared, "had no power or right to do what he did."

Since when, he asked, do telephone calls "constitute un-American activities?"

"I haven't even started to criticize, because Mr. Dies is not here," the New Yorker retorted when Representative Jensen, Republican, of Iowa suggested that Mr. Dickstein withhold his criticism until Mr. Dies was present to defend himself.