

GOP-Rankin Bloc Revives Dies Committee

By ADAM LAPIN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—In the first important speech of the 79th Congress, Speaker Sam Rayburn today called for national unity behind the war effort and the formation of an international security organization with real teeth.

"Beware of dangerous men and women in this country who preach disunity," Rayburn said. "We must be a united people."

Only a few minutes later the apostles of disunity and international discord won a significant and far-reaching victory with the approval by a 21-vote margin of a proposal by Rep. John Rankin of Mississippi to set up a permanent Dies Committee with broad powers.

A coalition of most House Republicans and a scattering of anti-Roosevelt southern Democrats mustered a 207 to 186 vote against Administration forces to perpetuate the Dies Committee.

Voting for a permanent Dies Committee were



REP. RANKIN

137 Republicans and 70 Democrats. Against Rankin's proposal were 150 Democrats, 34 Republicans, one American-Laborite and one Wisconsin Progressive.

RANKIN LEADS GOP

Rep. Rankin again proved the leader of House Republicans, this time in continuing the committee which in its six years of existence has been the outstanding American agency spreading the Nazi anti-Comintern doctrine, attacking all progressives and preaching hate against the Soviet Union.

Today's vote was the largest ever cast against the Dies Committee. But this was due partly to the special form in which the Rankin proposal came up. And there was no doubt that the anti-Communist line still retains a substantial grip on the thinking of a majority of the House.

On the opening day of the session usually devoted only to the swearing in of new members and similar formal ceremonies, there thus came a warning of danger ahead in the new Congress despite the President's triumph on Nov. 7.

In the Senate the new Senators marched down the aisle to be sworn in without incident. In an uneventful ceremony, the Senate accepted a bust of former Secretary of State Cordell Hull.

The House similarly moved along swiftly in organizing itself for the new session. Rep. Rayburn was reelected Speaker by a 224 to 168 vote against Rep. Joe Martin of Massachusetts, Republican leader, in a straight party vote.



REP. RAYBURN

Then Rep. Adolph Sabath (D-Ill), chairman of the House Rules Committee, submitted a routine resolution for approving the rules of the House. And Rep. Rankin, a bitter-end anti-Semite and Negro-hater as well as a foe of international cooperation, threw in the first monkey wrench of the new session.

Rankin had announced some time ago that he would put in a resolution to continue the Dies Committee despite the defeat in the election and primaries of practically all its members.

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...ry serious consideration in co-
operating with me in getting the
necessary enabling act from the
legislature in order to raise more
venue."

The Mayor offered his "thanks
and appreciation" for the Council's
operation with him during the
past year.

Before the Mayor began his ex-
temporaneous one hour and 35-
minute address, Majority Leader
Joseph T. Sharkey recalled he had
promised a year ago "to put aside
artisan politics for unity in the
war effort."

"We have made good that
promise," Sharkey said. "We have
kept the faith."

Sharkey again pledged to set
aside narrow partisanship, placing
a moratorium, however, on con-
structive criticism. He said he had
operation from
both sides of the
chamber, with
minority mem-
bers conferring
with him regu-
larly on impor-
tant legislation.

He cited the
Council's adop-
tion of the Davis-
Bacon anti-dis-
crimination housing bill, appropri-



GENEVIEVE EARL

"to do something" for lower paid
subway workers in the coming
budget. This, he explained, he ex-
pects to do through "step-ups" and

building a great city, the likes of
which the world has never seen,"
the Mayor said, lauding the coun-
cil members who voted for the

day be solved by reducing taxes on
low incomes, and demanded a
blanket \$500 cost-of-living increase
adjustment for city employees.

GOP-Rankin Bloc Revives Dies Body as 79th Congress Convenes

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But, a seasoned and skilled par-
liamentarian, he fooled everybody
by making his permanent Dies
Committee proposal an amendment
to the Sabbath resolution on the
rules of the House.

It was the first time in 150 years
that a stunt of this kind had been
successfully pulled, an amendment
to the rules of the House offered
on the floor to create a new com-
mittee rather than from the Rules
Committee.

Speakers against the Rankin
amendment, majority leader John
McCormack (D-Mass), Herman P.
Eberhart (D-Pa) and John Cochran
(D-Mo) concentrated on attack-
ing the form in which the proposal
came up, the fact that other agen-
cies are doing the same kind of
work and that there are too many

special investigating committees.

McCormack even promised Ran-
kin that if he offered a resolution
in regular form that it would re-
ceive prompt consideration and
predicted that it would pass.

It is by no means certain that
Rankin will be chairman of the
new Dies Committee. The Demo-
cratic members of the House Ways
and Means Committee will pick the
Democratic members.

The new committee will have ex-
tensive powers to roam everywhere
in the country to hold hearings on
anything it considers un-American,
whether "instigated from foreign
countries or of domestic origin" or
anything that "attacks the prin-
ciple of the form of government
guaranteed by the constitution" or
"all other questions in relations
thereto."

In his speech which was so
cavalierly overlooked by the House,
Rayburn spoke of his "hope for
unity, not only here but out there
among our more than 130,000,000
people."

"We must all join, every soul
of us, between these oceans and
the northern and southern bor-
ders," he declared, "to do every-
thing we can to bring this war
to a close at the earliest possible
moment."

Pointing out that the United
States "walked out on the rest of
the world" after the last war, Ray-
burn said:

"I am willing to join with the
democracies of the earth and
other peace-loving people and use
all the force that is necessary to
bring about an ordered world,"
Rayburn declared.

...completely omitted from the
Governor's message was all refer-
ence to the situation regarding state
enforcement of price control and
rationing regulations, which has
generally been considered unsatis-
factory. Also ignored was the press-
ing demand for revision of state-
city fiscal relations.

FDR Authorizes Drafting Farm Workers 18-26

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 (UP).—
President Roosevelt today author-
ized reclassification and induction
of as many farm workers 18 through
25 as the law permits.

War Mobilization Director James
F. Byrnes promptly notified Maj.
Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Selective
Service Director, to take whatever
action is necessary to carry out the
request.

Within a few hours, Hershey tele-
graphed instructions to local boards
ordering pre-induction physical ex-
aminations for all agriculturally de-
ferred registrants 18 to 26 unless
they previously were rejected for
military service.