

Congress of Industrial Organizations
1106 Connecticut Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C.
District 3582

For release evening papers, Wednesday, May 8, 1940.

The Dies Committee is presently engaged in an intensified campaign against organized labor and is engineering "finks and stoolpigeons" into giving testimony which contains "stupid and vicious slanders" against labor unions, Michael J. Quill, President of the CIO Transport Workers Union, declared today (WED) just before his voluntary appearance before the Committee in Washington.

Mr. Quill, here to answer charges made against the Transport Workers Union and its leaders by Thomas H. O'Shea, a Dies witness on April 23 last, declared:

"I have come to Washington to appear before the Dies Committee. I am being afforded the opportunity to testify only because I demanded it.

"Heretofore, we have ignored the stupid and vicious slanders levelled by finks and stoolpigeons against the Transport Workers Union and its officers.

"The recent attacks on labor unions engineered by the Dies Committee through discredited and exposed employer agents, including the wide publicity given to the testimony on April 23 of Thomas H. O'Shea, convinces me that the Committee is now intensifying its campaign against organized labor. I therefore deemed it to be in the interest of the Transport Workers Union of America, and of the entire organized labor movement, to answer these lies even though they were uttered by an irresponsible crackpot.

"The best answer to the stupid charges made by O'Shea is to be found in the program and achievements of the Transport Workers Union. Through peaceful methods it has made unprecedented gains for its great membership.

"Since affiliation with the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Transport Workers Union has won wage increases of many millions of dollars. For its members in New York City alone, the union has increased annual pay envelopes by \$16,000,000. The union has won for transit workers shorter hours, paid vacations of two weeks, sick leaves and holidays off with pay, full seniority rights, free pension benefits and other improvements in working conditions. The most extensive and comprehensive free medical service is provided by the union for its members in addition to an extensive program of educational, recreational and sports activities. Such accomplishments by a union are the matters which irk the Dies Committee as they must irk labor-hating employers.

"I am certain the people of the United States will not long tolerate the union-busting, un-American practices of the Dies Committee."