

Voorhis Assails Effort to Purge Foes of Reds

T-H 6/25/41
Dies Group Member,
However, Denies
U.D.A. Is Subversive

By CHESLY MANLY

Representative Jerry Voorhis (D.), of California, a member of the Dies Committee on Un-American Activities, yesterday issued a one-man minority report denouncing an undertaking by the so-called Union for Democratic Action to "purge" anti-Communist members of Congress, but denying that the U.D.A. is either Communist dominated or subversive.

A majority report issued by the committee Tuesday named the U.D.A. as the spearhead of a totalitarian conspiracy to undermine public confidence in Congress as an institution, and thereby to destroy representative government.

Leaders Listed

The majority reported revealed the past connections of 27 U.D.A. leaders with an organization called the American League Against War and Fascism, which was denounced as "a bold advocate of treason."

Voorhis' minority report "shares the concern of some other members of Congress and of other people throughout the country that there does exist a deliberate attempt to discredit the Congress in the eyes of the American people."

Voorhis also condemns the 32-page report issued by the U.D.A. in collaboration with the left-wing magazine New Republic, which purports to analyze the voting records of members of Congress and calls for the defeat of those whom it charges with "obstructionism."

He points out that the U.D.A. "fails to say a word in criticism of the one member who even voted against national defense appropriation bills after the war in Europe began." This refers to Representative Vito Marcantonio (A.L.), of New York, who has been characterized by James A. Farley as the only Communist member of Congress. Voorhis agrees that Marcantonio's "was the most dangerous single type of 'obstruction' of all."

Sees "Serious" Situation

Voorhis confesses that he would be less than honest if he "did not state that some of the evidence of past activities by some of the

people connected with the U.D.A. is serious."

"But the test that must be applied is not one of past opinions but of absolute and unquestioned present loyalty to our country for her own sake as she fights this war," he states. "The minority can find no evidence either that these people are lacking in such loyalty or that their loyalty is in any way prompted by the fact that the Soviet Union is on the same side."

Voorhis makes the point that the U.D.A. was denounced by the New York Daily Worker, official organ of the Communist Party, because of its attitude toward the war in Europe when it was organized in April, 1941.

The answer of the majority members to this argument is that the Hitler-Stalin alliance of August 1939, split the American Communists and their fellow travelers

into two opposing factions, one interventionist and the other anti-interventionist, and that Hitler's invasion of Russia in June, 1941, brought the Communists and their fellow travelers back together with respect to the issue.

While emphasizing that he is not a defender of the Communists, Voorhis makes the point that they are not alone in their totalitarian attitude toward Congress as an institution of our democracy. He quotes the following statement by Raymond Clapper, one of the Roosevelt Administration's most favored newspaper columnists, in his column of May 17: "The only reason Congress is not just that, is that people don't give a damn what the average Senator or Congressman says. The reason they don't care is that they know what you hear in Congress is 99 per cent tripe, ignorance and demagoguery and not to be relied on."