

(FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES, August 27, 1938)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 (AP)--The C.I.O. was challenged today to contradict charges made by an A.F. of L. official that many of its organizers were Communists.

The challenge was made by Chairman Dies of the Committee on Un-American Activities, in a letter to E. L. Oliver of Labor's Non-Partisan League, political arm of the C.I.O. The letter replied to accusations made by the league against Edward F. Sullivan, committee investigator.

The league had charged, in affidavits and other information delivered to the committee, that Sullivan once worked for the Railway Audit and Inspection Bureau, that he took part in "an undercover campaign" against President Roosevelt in 1936, and that American citizens should not be exposed to "baseless attacks" for him.

Declaring that Mr. Sullivan had denied the league's charges, Mr. Dies asserted that they were beside the point. He accused the league of "raising a smoke screen to cloud the real issue."

John P. Frey, an official of the American Federation of Labor, had testified before the committee previously that Communists held many important positions in the C.I.O.

"I note that you have gone to considerable trouble to investigatng one of the investigators of this committee," Mr. Dies wrote to Mr. Oliver, "but I am at a loss to understand why you have not devoted your time to the important question raised by testimony before our committee that the C.I.O. had had upon its payroll many organizers who were Communists.

"The committee is only interested in finding out the truth. I therefore suggest that you spend some of your time investigating these charges, and, if they are untrue, submitting facts to the committee to prove that they are untrue."

Mr. Dies said that he had invited Chairman John L. Lewis of the C.I.O. to appear before the committee and give any information he may have possessed with regard to subversive activities. He said Lewis declined, and that the chairman subsequently renewed invitations to all individuals and organizations to appear before the committee and reply to any charges which had been made against them at its hearings.