

Smokescreen for a "Native" Gestapo DW 11/23/40

• Secretary Ickes' verbose attack upon "native" fascists is exposed by the fact that the Roosevelt Administration, in which he sits, does nothing about them.

Speaking at Town Hall last Wednesday, Ickes named Coughlin, Merwin K. Hart, of the New York State Economic Council, and Lawrence Dennis, as "native" fascists in this country.

Why doesn't the federal government investigate these people? Why, for instance, doesn't it make an inquiry into the doings of the fascist mountebank Coughlin, about whom reams of documented evidence has been turned over by numerous organizations to the Attorney General? Why are these people, especially Henry Ford, permitted to work in apparent immunity with anti-Semitic, anti-labor gangs—and why are they rewarded with \$100,000,000 war contracts from the Administration?

Even as Ickes was speaking, Dies was threatening labor and peace organizations with lawless raids on a scale unprecedented. Here is a real fascist threat to the Bill of Rights, to militant trade unionists, and to everyone who fights for peace. Dies is preparing for a gigantic repetition of the infamous Palmer raids. He is now taking his place beside J. Edgar Hoover, as a second potential Gestapo agency in this country.

Having Dies "investigate" fascists is like sending the cat to watch the milk. All along Dies has been consorting with anti-Semites and fascists, screening them. Not even a pass has he made at Coughlin, Hart or Henry Ford, without whose aid and comfort Nazi agents couldn't work in this country. Instead Dies is constantly red-baiting against the American Peace Mobilization, the National Maritime Union, the auto workers and against labor in general.

The announced intention of Dies to conduct raids in eight key cities—all of them industrial centers—shows that his publicity on Nazi agents is only to prepare the ground for smearing and attacking the labor movement. His careful omission of the titled British agents who are here openly operating to get America into war, shows that he wants to whip up still more war hysteria.

It is under the cover of just such "anti-fascist" talk of Ickes and Dies, that labor and the people are menaced by Gestapo assaults upon their liberties. The real need is for a federal investigation of Coughlin, Ford, Hart, and the other Wall Street backers of fascism. Instead of getting the \$5,000,000 he asked for, Dies and his relations with the "native" fascists need investigating.

This should be the demand of peace-loving Americans and particularly of the trade unions, against whom Dies is preparing to turn his war-mongering campaign.

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