

Dies: Fascist

Exposure Due

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 28.—Rep. Martin Dies (D., Tex.) is planning a new coup to protect the dwindling prestige of his "Investigating Committee."

Dies announced over the week-end that his Committee would release "within the next two or three weeks" a large-scale exposure of "Nazi front" organizations in the U. S. A. He indicated the report would be hot stuff.

Observers here believe this is a last-minute attempt by the Texas witch-hunter to refute mounting evidence that his Committee has shielded native Fascists while levelling its main fire against anti-Communist New Dealers.

The timing of the Dies announcement stirred special interest. It came just two days after the *Nation*, liberal weekly, had announced it would publish a supplement, this Thursday, critically reviewing the history of the Dies Committee. The *Nation* said the supplement would reveal:

"Why Mr. Dies has allowed Fascist activities to gather dust in his files while he embarked on a gigantic campaign to undermine Roosevelt's Administration."

The coming Dies report is regarded as a move to discredit this exposure and to retrieve some of the public favor which the Committee lost as a result of Attorney General Biddle's exposure of its phony "red-list." Biddle disclosed some weeks ago that the Dies Committee had sent the FBI on hundreds of wild pursuits, tracking down "subversive" Government employes who turned out to be loyal citizens.

Despite Dies' recent efforts to rebut Biddle, there is general agreement here that the press has become increasingly hostile to the Dies agency and that even some of the Texan's staunchest supporters have deserted him. This trend has been confirmed by recent surveys of newspaper opinion.

Whether Dies has anything new to disclose about the Fascist Front, or whether his Committee simply will rewrite previously published material remains uncertain. When the committee decided to tell all about subversive Japanese activities, it later was shown that most of its research was done at the public library reading room.

AN EDITORIAL

Dies, Fascist Foe

Hold your hats, folks, Martin Dies has discovered the Fascist Front.

Announcement that the Dies Committee soon will issue a report on Fascist activity comes as another momentous anti-climax in the Dies' Committee's history.

Where were Dies, J. B. Matthews & Co. while liberal newspapers and organizations were turning the spotlight on the Fascist Front in the U. S. A? Not only since Pearl Harbor—but in the long, dreary months while our enemies were planning the attack?

Martin Dies, J. B. Matthews & Co. were fighting Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal Administration. They were being praised in Fascist newspapers, quoted over the Fascist radio. They were smearing known anti-Communist liberals—who happened to support FDR.

Will the Dies Committee's belated report on Fascist activity explain how—and why—the Dies Committee acted as chief transmission belt for the Fascist Front?

—JAMES A. WECHSLER.