

# ACTION

August 7, 1942

## NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES

1123 BROADWAY • • • NEW YORK N. Y.  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE • 1400 L STREET, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D. C.

## LETTER

SUBJECT: GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION OF MARTIN DIES

**BACKGROUND:** The Dies Committee, established in May, 1938, was continued this year, over strenuous opposition of many Congressmen, notwithstanding a public statement by Vice President Wallace that the effect on national morale would be less damaging "if Mr. Dies were on Hitler's payroll". The notorious record of the Dies Committee in shielding fascist propagandists has long been known. NFCL's memorandum, February 9, 1942, charged Dies and Committee with impeding the war effort, failing to weed out anti-democratic organizations, including Christian Front, Klan and pro-Nazi groups, giving aid and comfort to un-American fuehrers such as True, Coughlin, Smythe, etc., tending to undermine the confidence of the American people in their government by unsubstantiated allegations and cloaking its defense of Deatherage, Winrod, Pelley and others by its attacks on people's organizations. Memorandum also cited public support given Dies Committee by Bund, Silver Shirts, Klan and other fascist groups.

**PRESENT SITUATION:** The Federal Grand Jury in the District of Columbia, on July 24, 1942 made public its indictment of 28 pro-Axis propagandists charged with conspiring to undermine morale of armed forces and to obstruct war program. At least nine individuals indicted have been actively protected by Martin Dies. The names of many others are conspicuously absent from the Dies record. Organizations like the Klan, Bund, the Silver Shirts, papers like the Cross and Flag, Social Justice, and others named in the indictment are those which have always given most vociferous support to the Dies Committee. NFCL in telegrams sent the day the indictment was made public to President Roosevelt, Vice President Wallace, Speaker Rayburn, Attorney General Biddle and William Power Maloney, Special Assistant to the Attorney General and Prosecutor for the Grand Jury, urged them to use their influence "to terminate Dies Committee" and secure Federal investigation of Martin Dies. Telegram charged Dies with refusing to investigate Hudson, Garner, Kullgren, DeAryan, Asher, Sanctuary, Dilling - all indicted by the Grand Jury. Yesterday, August 6, in a letter to Special Assistant to the Attorney General Maloney, NFCL urged him to direct the Grand Jury to investigate what relationship if any exists between Dies and individuals named in indictments. For additional background material see NFCL Memo of February 9, 1942, "Pro-Axis Leanings of Dies Committee Hinder U.S. War Effort". (The enclosed press release gives highlights of NFCL letter to Maloney.)

**ACTION:** Now is the time to investigate Martin Dies. The Federal Grand Jury in Washington, D.C. can do the job.

1. Trade unions and other organizations should be urged to adopt resolutions calling upon Attorney General Biddle and Special Assistant to the Attorney General Maloney to direct the Grand Jury in Washington to investigate what relations exist between Dies and the seditionists. Contact local individuals to wire or write similar requests. DO NOT COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH THE GRAND JURY. ALL LETTERS, WIRES AND RESOLUTIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO BIDDLE AND MALONEY, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.
2. Notify NFCL in New York of all action taken by organizations and individuals in your area so that NFCL in pressing its request for an investigation, can back it up with widespread local support.

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