

4/19/40

Dear Cameron,

I regret that I haven't been able to do more this past week or so. However, the infection that I got has spread and is now in my ear. I guess I am going to have to rest for a few days. I am leaving today for home, Wilmington, Del., and I expect to stay there until Tuesday night or Wednesday morning. I'll be back in Washington by Wednesday noon at the latest. If you want anything my phone there is 3-2645, the address 122 N. Lincoln.

I am taking my FBI stuff with me and in the event you want the plant protection story I'll be able to give it to you from there.

Please let me know one way or the other about the Bat'a story. The case I told you about started last week and no decision has been handed down by the judge yet.

Yesterday I got a check for \$20. This was for the week before, not this week. It did not include special assignments. My expenses getting the pictures for Dick total \$3.25. Please send me ~~that~~ what is due me to Wilmington.

Can't we arrange some system under which what money that is due me is sent out one a particular day every week? It's awfully annoying the way it is.

You will find in the Congressional Record of today ( that is, of yesterday's debates ) a long speech from Congressman Thill in which he includes what seems to be the most recent list of registered foreign agents. As I glanced through it I noticed that a large number of our most prominent advertising firms, some very influential, work on behalf of a great many of the larger industries in the countries of the Allies. With so many of the moulders of public opinion on the payrolls of the Allies, it seems that they are paid to direct opinion the way they are directing it.

One of the most interesting rumors I have heard in some time is that the Workers Alliance is going to join the CIO. I have heard this from two different sources, but have not been able to get a single bit of confirmation. As soon as I get back I am going to try and trace this all the way down. It doesn't seem likely but is not impossible. It would be a good idea. Yet, if you read John Lewis' West Virginia speech you will see that the only large group he left out of the list of those he is going to call to a LNPL-sponsored conference is the unemployed.

Opinion here seems to be that Congress will adjourn in six weeks- that

is, after a week in June. There are some Members of Congress who believe that a special session will be called before the Democratic Convention, to declare war.

What is your policy with regard to Latin America, if you have one? I ask this particularly in view of Dies intervention in the Mexican situation. Two months ago, at about the time that rumors of a fascist revolution in Northern Mexico began to reach here, Dies announced the appointment of a special one-man subcommittee ( John J. Dempsey of New Mexico ) to investigate unAmerican propaganda emanating from Mexico. Almost immediately came the strange arrest of 7 CIO people by the sheriff in El Paso. Several times since then Dies has announced that he would hold hearings in a few days, but he hasn't and probably won't for some time-if at all. Dies is hot after the Mex stuff. The real situation is that there has been for years a large fascist group of Mexicans, known as the Gold Shirts, who are assisted by both the Nazis and the Japs. They have attempted at least one revolution against Cardenas. They get guns from the US as well as other sources, and ~~some~~ several months ago a Texas or New Mexico grand jury indicted several individuals and Remington Arms Co. ( DuPont) for illegal gun-running to Mexico. Dies had on the stand Henry D. Allen, the liason between the Nazi's in Los Angeles and the Gold Shirts, who figures in the gun-running and other activities, and although he had considerable information in his possession ( i.e., Dies did) Allen was not confronted with any real information on his Mexican activity. Dies has consistently whitewashed the Mexican situation and now he suddenly invents a Red plot at the time when political activity in Mexico is getting hotter. At the same time Dies investigator who initially participated in the Gold Shirt whitewash, Edward Francis Sullivan, who, during the time he worked for Dies was actually an agent of the Ukrainian fascists, suddenly, without any grounds whatsoever, starts a vicious and not quite legal harassment of John Spivak, who exposed the Mexican story and Allen.

Which reminds me, I have some unpublished stuff on the circulation by the Republican National Committee during the 1936 election of antisemitic literature, aimed against Roosevelt and the New Deal, if you are at all interested in it. It would take a considerable amount of work to do a complete story, but a little yarn would only take a couple of days. I even have the check numbers of payments to some of the better-known antisemites. Brother Sullivan, although nobody knows it, was also on their payroll at the times he was working with James True on such filthy propaganda. I have the dates upon which he received specific amounts of money and the numbers of the checks with which he was paid.

Are you interested in a good expose of the insurance business? There is a good one that I can't do because I don't understand it well enough, but I can get you all the information a specialist would need in doing a story. The Monopoly Committee held some swell hearings, showing exactly how much of the country is held by the insurance companies and I understand from friends of mine that the papers played it down or left it alone.

Another good yarn from the monopoly record is a story on beryllium.

This metal has tremendous military value-greater, I understand, than molybdenum. It is shared by the Nazi's and British, without any difficulty. The Nazi's operate Metal and Thermit Corp., in Chicago, in their beryllium business. I really don't know much about it except that it is supposed to be a good story. If you are interested in it in the event it can be a good story showing the cooperation between Nazi and British capitalists, dividing up the world into restricted territories, etc, let me know and I'll get a summary to you showing the story, in brief.

The House yesterday passed the Logan-Walter bill. This, as you probably know, is aimed primarily at the NLRB. It is a flank attack which, if successful ( and it seems as though it will be) will make the Smith amendments and the like unnecessary, though still desirable to the antilabor forces.

Also passed yesterday was a new appropriation for the Army with a lot of emphasis on new battleships and repairs to the old one. If you are at all interested in this there is a National Home Library book by Stephen Hauschenbush, former secretary of the Munitions investigation by Nye, called, I believe, War Madness, which deals at length with the "graft and gravy in battleship construction. This book ( 25¢) is based upon the official record of the munitions committee and the information from that record is public and not copyrightable. The take for the shipbuilders is tremendous. Even if you are not interested in such a story I believe that you'd enjoy the sections dealing with the division of spoils with Bethlehem and NY Shipbuilding, as I remember it, getting the lion's share.

For the past two weeks LNPL and CIO boys from all over the country have been down here lobbying against the Smith amendments and while I have been confined to the home most of the time it seems as though they have had some success and made a little impression. Frank Fries, of the House Liberal Bloc ( so called ) comes from an AFL district in Illinois. He fought all amendments to the NLRA, including the AFL amendments, and was renominated by the CIO through LNPL. Burke of Nebraska who, when he first ran for the Senate pretended to be a New Dealer, introduced the NAM amendments to the NLRA. He fr franked out thousands and thousands of NAM propaganda leaflets, etc., and at government expense. He was defeated for renomination.

There is also a possibility of a stroy in the recent trend of military contracts let by the government-the trend being smaller and smaller contracts going to an increasingly large number of manufacturers who, of course, come more and more under the domination of the army and navy-and the FBI-because of the work they are doing. Lots of things, like shoes, for instance, become "national defense" orders. Some hearings were held by a House committee but they were never published and went by. I believe I can get to see the stenographic transcript if you are interested. It should take about 2 days to get all the information.

The Department of Justice report on the FBI-Detroit raids should be released any day now but I haven't an inkling of what it will say. When I wrote you about this some time ago I told you that the

probability was that the FBI would be whitewashed because all of the dirty work was done by marshalls and not agents. I have learned that this is not true. that the breaking down of doors and manacling of the people was done by the FBI.

I don't know what the report by Schweinhaut will be, but I am certain that if it is a whitewash Norris will raise hell about it. I have become increasingly suspicious of this "investigation" because of the number of seemingly inspired stories and the statements of Hoover himself to the effect that the attacks on the FBI are a red plot. The began again at approximately the time I heard that Schweinhaut had returned from Detroit.

Attorney General Jackson has promised an investigation of the arrest of a lawyer named Frantz by a U.S. Marshall and a sheriff in Birmingham, Ala., when they entered the CP headquarters to serve Dies subpoenas. Frantz, son of a socially-prominent Tennessee family, was in the office (with which he has no direct connection-he was working on a case) when they entered. When he said he didn't know where the persons they sought were he was slapped into jail and held incommunicado for 48 hours. He is also supposed to be referred to Schweinhaut who, by the way, prosecuted the NMU boys for an alleged mutiny on the Algic. This was one of Joe Kennedy's little tricks against the union which the boys in NMU undoubtedly know all about. They ought to be able to give you a story on the course of the City of Flint and what happened to it in what ports on its famous trip. I understand it was way off its course when intercepted and was taken to a Russian port in order to whip up feeling against Russia. The captain of the City of Flint was the captain of the Algic who was told by Kennedy (then chr. of the Maritime Commission) to throw the union men in irons.

The Senate Civil Liberties Committee is preparing reports but there is nothing there because the contents of the report will not be known until it is offered to the Senate.

One of the possibilities of a State Department story is the Lansing Letters, the private files of Wilson's secretary of state, published about three months ago not because the state department wanted to publish them but because the law provided for it. I don't know how much was used but I believe that you can draw parallels from ~~it~~ them to the current situation. Let me know if you want them and I'll get them for you.

It seems as though Ax-man Cliff Woodrum may reopen his investigation of WPA. There is some kind of a story in his old investigation. His counsel or chief investigator H. Ralph Burton is the fellow who circulated questionnaires among WPA workers demanding to know their union affiliation. He was a Coughlin guy and I can produce the dates upon which he received varying amounts of money from the Father, totalling about \$15,000. This has never been used. I can also produce a copy of a letter which he sent to the clerk of the House of Representatives on behalf of Coughlin. This is the guy who investigated WPA. What else I can turn up on the WPA investigation I will not know until I look into it, but I believe I can get to see that.

For a long time Coughlin had a lobbyist here--fat little Louis Ward, who seemed to make his headquarters in the Carroll Arms Hotel, directly across the street from the Senate Office Building. Ward was usually with a big blond. About 8 months ago Ward was made some kind of a big shot on Social Justice, managing editor or something comparable. He has been back in Washington, spending at least a large part of his time on the Hill, for about a month now. I don't know what he is up to, but the very silence surrounding his work leads me to believe that Coughlin is up to something again.

It is interesting to note the parallel between Dies attack on the Spanish Vets and the following attack on Mexico and the same in Social Justice. Dies could have given several issues of Social Justice which I have seen as the authority for his ~~statements~~ statements. If you want to have somebody look over Social Justice I believe that Jimmy Wechsler at the Nation has then. Dies has refused to investigate Coughlin and Coughlin has boomed Dies for President.

In spite of the war there is a considerable undercurrent of domestic politics here. Many of the Congressmen from Southern States are spending most of their time in their constituencies. Joe Starnes, for instance, has not attended most of the meetings of the Dies committee. In his State, Alabama, they have a May primary and the primary ~~ixix~~ is the equivalent of the election because the Democrat always wins. The primary vote is usually heavier. Starnes is being opposed by a judge about whom little is known. It seems as though liberals and ~~tax~~ unionists in his district take the position that they can't do worse. The farmers union, I believe, is leading the opposition to him and the CIO is probably following them. Starnes district included Gadsden, where there has been so much terrorism of unionists by Goodyear, Gulf States Steel, Tennessee Coal Iron and Railroad, etc. Gulf States is now owned by Republic and Tennessee Co. by U.S. Steel.

Please don't forget the dough and try to arrange with whoever sends out the checks for mine to leave on a regular day each week.

Harold