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Feared Reprisals

Enemy Agents 'Endangered' Life of Son, Dies Asserts

By the United Press

Orange, Tex., May 3.—Chairman Martin Dies of the House Committee Investigating un-American Activities revealed today that one of his sons had been "endangered" by enemy agents, and that he plans to change the location of secret committee hearings because witnesses had "feared reprisals."

Dies said his son had been trailed at Washington, D. C., by enemy agents who intended "either to kill or kidnap him." Questioned later at his home, Dies refused to elaborate on the statement.

He said the secret hearings, through which the committee hopes to obtain indictments against a number of individuals and heads of subversive organizations "whom we hitherto have been unable to

touch" would be moved from his Jasper, Tex., farm home.

"Fear of reprisals and disclosure of their identities have made it difficult for us to obtain witnesses and informers," Dies said. "Publicity attendant on hearings in big cities made it impossible for us to keep pledges of secrecy concerning names and statements of witnesses."

Dies said he is awaiting approval of other committee members to holding the hearings at West Coast and Mexican border cities nearer the residences of prospective witnesses.

Dies repeated assertions that four of the committee's informers have been killed and that mysteries surrounding the cases have not been solved. The slayings occurred several years ago, he said.

He said a number of witnesses had testified at his farm, but he still has "about 150 to question." He said it would take about three weeks, and that information obtained would be submitted to a Federal grand jury at Washington or to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"But I prefer to submit the whole facts to the grand jury and bring the thing to a showdown," he said.