

Dies Tries Hard

THE NATION

Texan Directs Committee Aids to Search Writings to See If He Can 'Get' the Vice President

By I. F. STONE
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WASHINGTON, May 14.—The Dies Committee is trying hard to get something on Henry A. Wallace.

Though I have promised to shield my source and report few of the details, I can state as a fact that the Dies Committee has been going meticulously through the writings of the Vice President.

A search of everything written by or about the Vice President was ordered by Rep. Martin Dies several days after Wallace blasted the Texan's Committee for its attack on the Board of Economic Warfare (BEW).

Investigators for the Committee even went far back into the files of *Wallace's Farmer*, which was edited by the Vice President's father before him. The intention is to find passages which can be used, either in or out of context, Dies Committee style, to "prove" that the Vice President is a "dangerous radical."

Recent Speech Scanned

The Dies Committee also is considering the text of the Vice President's speech before the Free World Assn. dinner in New York last Friday, with its stress on the People's Revolution.

Vice President Wallace in his speech Friday night said, among other things:

"This is a fight between a free world and a slave world. . . . The peace must mean a better standard of living for the common man, not merely in the United States and England, but also in India, Russia, China and Latin-America—not merely in the United Nations, but also in Germany and Italy and Japan. . . . No nation will have the God-given right to exploit other nations. Older nations will have the privilege to help younger nations get started on the path to industrialization, but there must be neither military nor economic imperialism . . . the march of freedom of the past 150 years has been a long-drawn-out people's revolution . . . the people's revolution aims at peace and not at violence, but if the rights of the common man are attacked, it unleashes the ferocity of a she-bear who has lost a cub."



Vice President Wallace, who is the target of Martin Dies's latest smear attempt. Photo by Alan Fisher, PM

Aiming High

Wallace's speech, hailed by liberals everywhere as a great document in defining our war aims, was ignored largely by the press. In New York only PM and the *Herald Tribune* gave extensive coverage, and the *Trib* did not print the text, most of which appeared in PM.

Examples of persecuted lesser officials are C. Hartley Grattan and Maurice Parmelee. Grattan was hired as an expert on Australia, which he is, and Parmelee for the knowledge and experience gained in his work with Anglo-American blockade authorities in the last war. Grattan was smeared for contributing an article to a radical youth magazine many years ago; Parmelee for writing a book on nudism, also many years ago.

Although the Vice President defended both in a letter that left the Dies Committee smarting for revenge, Milo Perkins, Director

of the BEW, forced the resignation of Grattan and discharged Parmelee for fear of public criticism aroused by Dies.

The Dies Committee never has gone gunning for a figure as high as Wallace, though it has done plenty of oblique smearing of FDR and the New Deal.

Whether the Dies Committee has found anything in Wallace's writing which could be twisted for its purposes has not been learned. Whether Dies consulted any other members of the Committee before ordering a study of Wallace's writings is not known. But the study has been made and the excerpts and reports are before the Texan.

It remains to be seen whether Dies will have the courage for a direct attack.

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to Smear Wallace

AN EDITORIAL

On Dies and the Wallace Speech

News from Washington that Martin Dies is studying Vice President Wallace's speech of Friday night with a view to smearing the Vice President is a challenge that every freedom-loving American must accept eagerly.

Here was a speech that sounded the call to a free and decent world. It was a speech that synthesized the whole history of the U. S. A.—more than 150 years of the slow and toiling struggle of men to live their lives, free and independent, worthy of the great country which they built from a wilderness.

It was the kind of speech that—could it have been heard there—would have reached into the hearts of the enslaved peoples of Europe and would have moved

them as nothing else could. It was a speech that every American who understands the meaning of our country must have been proud of.

And Martin Dies is studying it to smear a man like Wallace!

The very fact that he is doing so symbolizes this war as nothing else can—a war not only against Fascism abroad, but its black ally, reaction at home.

Here is the issue, clear-cut and plain for all to see.

Reactionary, petty, mean-souled little men of America against men who have caught a vision of what America means and can mean.

OK, Martin Dies. Let's have it out!

— ALEXANDER UHL