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Dies Committee Invents Plot (Red, Naturally) to Wreck U. S.

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PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, June 24.—The Dies Committee today renewed its war against individuals and groups committed to all-out support of President Roosevelt.

A special report, drafted and adopted with mysterious secrecy, accused the anti-Communist, pro-New Deal Union for Democratic Action of leading a "Communist-inspired" movement "aimed at destroying our representative form of government."

In addition to the UDA, the other major targets of Dies's attack are groups and persons whose opposition to the Communist Party is a matter of record.

The "collaborators" linked by the Dies Committee to the newly discovered conspiracy include:

- ¶ Henry Luce's *Time* magazine.
- ¶ The *New Republic*.
- ¶ PM.

'Widespread Plot'

As evidence that a widespread plot is afoot to "Nazify" the American Government, the report cites a series of recent articles criticizing Congressmen who opposed President Roosevelt's foreign policy in the crucial pre-Pearl Harbor months.

The report is interpreted here as primarily provoked by the *New Republic* supplement on Congress, widely circulated by the UDA, which called for the election of Congressmen who have consistent anti-Fascist records. This supplement gets a good play in the latest Dies document.

In addition, the report seeks to pin the Communist label on 27 members of the UDA, virtually all of whom have been bitterly denounced by the Communist press at one time or another in recent years.

According to a story apparently planted by Dies Committee agents in last night's bulldog edition of the *Washington Times-Herald* (Cissy Patterson's paper), the report was adopted at a "secret meeting" of the Committee last week in the face of stubborn opposition from the New Dealer, Jerry Voorhis, (D., Cal.). The *Times-Herald* had a "beat" on the report. The story, written by Chesley Manly, said that other members of the Dies Committee "attributed great significance to Voorhis's extraordinary solicitude for the Communists."

Voorhis did not sign the report. Neither did Joseph E. Casey (D., Mass) who was reported to have been absent when it was submitted. The *Times-Herald* said it was uncertain whether Rep. Harry Beam (D., Ill.) would sign it.

Rep. Thomas Eliot (D., Mass.), most outspoken Congressional critic of the Dies Committee, expressed doubt that the Committee could have held a meeting last week.

"Martin Dies hasn't answered a roll call in the House since March 11," he said. "He went home to Texas before his Committee's latest appropriation was voted. Casey has been away for some time. It must have been a meeting by telephone."

The report was approved by:

- Martin Dies (D., Tex.)
- Joseph Starnes (D., Ala.)
- Noah M. Mason (R., Ill.)
- J. Parnell Thomas (R., N. J.)

Dies, Starnes, and Thomas were all cited by the *New Republic* and the UDA as unfit for return to Congress because of their obstructionist tactics.

In linking Henry Luce and *Time* magazine to the prospective Putsch, the report solemnly absolves Luce himself of Marxist convictions, but insists that his magazine

"has of late contributed much to the effort to undermine popular confidence in one of the essential branches of our Government."

To prove that articles and surveys criticizing Congressmen were all dictated by Moscow, the Committee relates that such declarations appeared in Communist newspapers as well as in *Time* and in *PM*. The report adds:

"*Time's* part in the attack takes a generalized form which is clearly directed against Congress as an institution. *Time's* issue of May 25, 1942, gives a two-page spread to the attack made upon Congress by the Union for Democratic Action (with which this report is principally concerned)...."

The keynote of the Dies essay is that any attempt to oust obstructionists from Congress is an attack on parliamentary government.

Quotations from the *Communist Internationale* are also invoked to show that anybody who wants to get rid of his Congressman is playing the Kremlin game.

The Committee's indictment of the UDA sets a new mark for Dies Committee sleight-of-hand in transforming known anti-Communists into devoted Party followers.

Among those UDA members cited—and the real facts about them—are:

Lewis Corey: The report points out that Corey, whose name was formerly Louis Fraina, was an active Communist in the early days of the Party's history. It ignores the fact that Corey's relations with the Communists were severed more than 15 years ago. He has been savagely denounced in all Communist publications for a decade.

George S. Counts: The report declares that Counts was once a member of the executive board of the League Against War and Fascism. It does not reveal that Counts subsequently led the anti-Communist drive in the American Federation of Teachers.

Gardner Jackson Cited

Gardner Jackson: Jackson is cited because of his membership on the National Peoples Committee against Hearst, which the report says was a subsidiary of the League for Peace and Democracy. The report overlooks the attacks made by the Communists on Jackson when he resigned as legislative representative of Labor's Non-Partisan League—because John L. Lewis was fighting FDR, preaching isolationism, and working with the Communists.

Freda Kirchwey: Editor and publisher of the *Nation*. Miss Kirchwey was repeatedly condemned by the Communists because the *Nation* supported aid to England during the period of the Nazi-Soviet pact.

J. B. S. Hardman: Dies declares that Hardman was one of the founders of the League Against War and Fascism. The report doesn't explain that Hardman is editor of the *Advance*, organ of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union—traditionally one of the most anti-Communist U. S. labor unions. The reports take parenthetical pleasure in noting that Hardman's real name is Jacob Salutzky.

Others denounced by the Dies report who have been assailed with equal vigor by the Communist press include:

Louis Fischer.

Ludwig Lore.

Granville Hicks.

Thomas R. Amlie.

The new Dies indictment, like previous documents issued by the Committee, fails to discover any Fascists or Fascist supporters.