

Colleague Exposes New Dies 'Exposé'

Voorhis Calls 'Red' Report An Attack on Fundamental Liberty

By JAMES A. WECHSLER

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, June 25.—The Dies Committee's newly discovered "Communist plot" was exploded today—by a member of the Dies Committee.

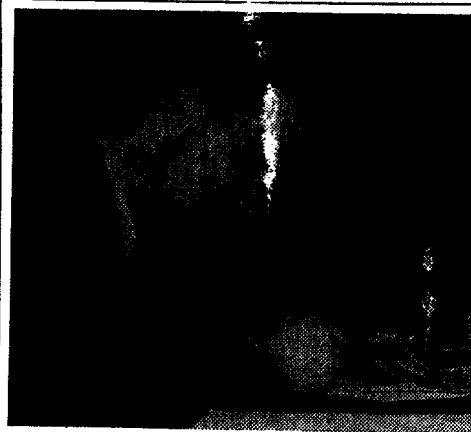
Dissenting sharply from the Committee's latest "special report," Rep. Jerry Voorhis (D., Cal.) accused the group of "striking a blow at liberty," called the disclosures "ridiculous" and demanded that Dies cease labeling as un-American everybody who disagrees with Martin Dies.

Voorhis's blast was provoked by the Committee's charge that the Union for Democratic Action (UDA), an anti-Communist, pro-New Deal organization, was leading a "Communist-inspired" movement to undermine Congress. The same report linked PM, *Time* and the *New Republic* with the Kremlin coup.

In condemning Dies's newest anti-Communist manifesto (which attacked nearly everybody except actual Communists), Voorhis simultaneously exposed the sudden, secret and mysterious process by which the Committee gave birth to the document.

No Hearings Held

"Only one meeting was held regarding it and only four members of the Committee were present at that time," he said. "Until that meeting assembled, I had never seen nor heard of the report in question. Yet a vigorous attempt was made to secure immediate adoption of the report, motions were made to that effect and my refusal in this executive meeting to agree to a report I had



Rep. Jerry Voorhis

Photo by Harris & Ewing

never read has subsequently been interpreted in the press as 'an attempt to protect Communists.'

Emphasizing that "no hearings were ever held on any of these matters," Voorhis also declared that he never had a chance to suggest changes in the report—or to vote for it or against it.

"Subsequently and without any other meeting of the Committee the majority report was just issued all of a sudden without any action at all in which the minority had opportunity to participate," Voorhis said.

The California progressive made clear that he disagreed with some views of the UDA, but insisted that the Dies Committee had no business engaging "in a name-calling contest with an organization whose ideas the Committee just doesn't like."

Crawford Named

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, June 25. — Among those cited in the latest Dies Committee report is Kenneth G. Crawford, head of PM's Washington Bureau.

Crawford is one of 50 members of the Union for Democratic Action whose "affiliations with the agencies and fronts of the Communist Party" is supposed to prove that the UDA is a Moscow-controlled unit. Crawford is identified as a member of the Descendants of the American Revolution, the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

The facts:

¶ Crawford didn't belong to the Descendants of the American Revolution. He isn't eligible.

¶ He was never a member of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties.

¶ He never belonged to the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

¶ He was defeated for re-election as president of the American Newspaper Guild by the Communists and their supporters in 1940.

¶ He was denounced in an article in the *Daily Worker* last month as "a fanatical red-baiter."

Reds Smeared UDA

Reciting the history of the UDA, Voorhis pointed out that the organization had been the frequent target of Communist attack. The Dies Committee itself, Voorhis said, was unable to prove that the UDA was a Communist group, but could only cite the alleged Communist connections—past—of some UDA members.

Voorhis recalled that, in April, 1941, the *Daily Worker* described the leaders of the UDA as "linked with the Government, tied to the war machine, faithful to capital," and branded them "a menace to the labor movement and peace." The *Worker* article said that the UDA chiefs "come bearing the poison of imperialist slaughter" and proclaimed that "the working-class and the American people must shun them as the fifth column of Wall St. empire."

"It is true that after the Communists changed their position on foreign policy, these attacks by the Communist press on the UDA ceased, but the UDA held to its position all the way through," Voorhis commented.

Keynote of the Dies Committee report was the assertion that recent attacks on obstructionist members of Congress were part of a Communist plan to wipe out "parliamentary government." As chief exhibits it cited the *New Republic* supplement on Congress, issued in conjunction with UDA. Three of the four Dies Committee members who signed the majority report—Dies, Joseph Starnes and J. Parnell Thomas—were called unfit for re-election in this survey.

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AN EDITORIAL

On Dies's New Red Scare

Tuesday night the Dies Committee gave Chesly Manly, reporter for the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Washington Times-Herald*, exclusive rights to a report indicting *Time*, *PM* and the *New Republic* as Communist-inspired publications intent on undermining public confidence in the representative form of government.

Four members of the Dies Committee subscribed to the report. Three of them were declared unfit for re-election to Congress by the *New Republic* in a recent supplement. Thus these members used their power as the majority of a Congressional committee to say, in effect:

"Anyone who is against our re-election is a Communist and a foe of representative government."

The whole report was, in effect, a reprint of Manly articles appearing in the *Chicago Tribune*. Some of his phrases were lifted without benefit of rewrite. Obviously majority members of the Committee merely adopted the *Chicago Tribune's* stuff as its own and then handed it back to the *Chicago Tribune* for exclusive publication.

The Dies Committee has done much in the past to discredit the Congress it represents and the representative system which Congress represents. It is bad enough that the Committee continues to denounce as Communists those who disagree with its anti-Roosevelt sentiments. It is worse that it keeps company with Manly and the *Chicago Tribune*.

Manly is the reporter who handed over the U. S. Army secret war plans to the Nazis within a week before Pearl Harbor by publishing them in the columns of the *Chicago Tribune*. The *Chicago Tribune* is the paper that has, within the last two weeks, handed additional vital military information to the Japanese.

With this performance, the Dies Committee breaks its own record for low politics. In this one report it has done more than *Time*, the *New Republic* and *PM* combined, even if they were trying to discredit the democratic processes, could possibly do to accomplish their purpose.

—KENNETH G. CRAWFORD