

T-H 7/30/42

Pinkos' N. Y. Mass Meeting Smear of Dies Delights PM

Devotes Nearly Page to Account of Rantings Against House Prober

T-H 7/30/42 BY JOHN M. FISHER

Continuing its smear of opponents of communism and of the Administration's foreign policies prior to Pearl Harbor, the alleged newspaper PM, operated by Marshall Field 3d, yesterday carried a blast

against Representative Martin Dies (D.), of Texas, chairman of the House Committee on un-American Activities.

The New York sheet, darling of the uptown Communists, devoted most of a page in yesterday's edition to a "mass meeting" held Tuesday night in the Astor Hotel, New York, at which pinkos on the Dies Committee blacklist of communistic influences apparently devoted a full evening to castigating the Texas Congressman, according to PM's account.

A report from the Dies Committee recently named PM, the leftist journal New Republic, the Communist organs the Daily Worker and the New Masses, as well as Henry Luce's Time magazine, and the fellow workers on the staffs of these publications as participants in an organized campaign "aimed at destroying our representative form of government." The smear attack on Members of Congress has been part of this campaign, according to the Dies Committee report.

Smarting from the sting of this report, the "liberal editors and writers," as PM described them, got together Tuesday night to dissect Dies.

"Dangerous Native Fascist"

PM described Dies as "a dangerous native Fascist engaged in an unscrupulous campaign to destroy American liberalism." It quoted

Freda Kirchwey, editor of the Nation and on the Dies committee list of fellow travelers, as telling the "liberal editors and writers":

"Dies is not important as a man or a politician. Dies is important as a symbol of forces that have been mobilized to defeat our hope of a democratic America, a victorious war, and a people's peace... His committee is a camouflaged pillbox in the Fascist fight for control of our democracy. It needs to be stormed and overthrown—not reformed."

"Grave Cloud on Horizon"

PM further quoted Bruce Bliven, editor of the New Republic, as telling his fellow workers that "a good example of the Dies committee at its worst" was the recent report on the "Union for Democratic Action," and the New Republic for its purge campaign against Congressmen. "In my judgment," declared Bliven, "Diesism is a grave cloud on the horizon of democratic processes and of the orderly democratic government."

Kenneth Crawford, Washington correspondent for PM and listed in the recent Dies report as one of the leaders in the congressional purge campaign, was quoted by PM as saying that the Dies committee's "real and only partially concealed purpose has been to discredit President Roosevelt and his New Deal."

Matthews Called "Rasputin"

Another speaker at this jolly gathering, according to PM, was Victor Riesel, labor editor of the New York Post, Dorothy Backer's newspaper, also engaged in the smear campaign and which recently ran an indecent smear attack on Senator David I. Walsh

(D.), of Massachusetts, which was later officially repudiated and denounced by Administration leaders.

Riesel made some choice remarks to this effect, according to PM:

"In the hands of Martin Dies and his Rasputin, sometimes known as J. B. Matthews, the committee becomes a dangerous weapon serving the purpose of declassified ex-Communists, vintage 1925, the Southern congressional bloc of Howard, Bilbo and Tammage, the Fascist leaders whom the 'un-American committee' failed to investigate."

Dies was not available for comment on this latest smear attempt, his office reporting that he is in Texas.