

Unions Attack Dies Probe

Vote of February 11 1939

SAN FRANCISCO—Resolutions attacking the forthcoming Dies Committee witch hunt on the coast flooded the "Voice" office this week.

"The infamous reactionary, Martin E. Dies" was the way the steward's department of the S.S. Coast Farmer tagged the Texas phoney. The steward pointed out that Dies and the Garner gang back of him have "campaigned through red-baiting tactics against the New Deal and the Roosevelt administration, utilizing the (Dies) committee to defeat such progressives as former Governor Murphy of Michigan and many others."

"Dies couldn't be elected rat-catcher out here on the coast," said Bruce Hannon, MFP secretary. "But down in Texas only the upper crust that can pay their unconstitutional poll tax, get to vote. That's why reactionaries like Dies and Garner can coast in at every election."

The State of Texas apparently doesn't believe in allowing the rank and file to exercise their constitutional privilege of voting, for only those with money to pay for

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their vote get a chance to show up at the polls.

"It is no accident that Mr. Dies is coming here to spread his lies red-baiting and vicious attacks against democratically elected and highly respected maritime leaders," declares District Council No. 1 of the MFP. "It is part and parcel of the ship owners' attack on the waterfront unions."

"If Mr. Martin Dies is looking for enemies and un-Americans in our country he should look in the ranks of the ship-owners," says the engine department of the S.S. Matthew Luckenbach. "These ship-owners have done all they can to break down decent American standards of living and democratically controlled unions, and not in the ranks of the tried and trusted labor leaders who have fought for the right of working men to enjoy a more just share of the fruits of their labor in this country."

Why Not Investigate Texas?

Federation officials pointed out that if Dies really wanted to investigate something he ought to go back to Texas and investigate the way the Texas Rangers have been used to smash waterfront unions and burn their halls in Houston and Galveston. He might also take a look at the way Texans are denied the right to vote and hold legal meetings by the employer-police ring in Texas cities.

And if he is really in a mood for investigation he might look into the way the Mexican and Negro workers in Texas are given the dirty end of the stick through the denials of their civil liberties.

Dies is scheduled to be on the coast early in November. He has already subpoenaed a number of labor leaders and a sprinkling of Communist Party officials. Among those on the list for a Dies' smear-ing are Henry Schmidt, ILWU 1-10 president, and John Schomaker, likewise of 1-10.

ILWU Ladies

The Portland ILWU 1-5 ladies' auxiliary has pointed out that "these hearings have been timed to open when the waterfront unions will be negotiating their agreements and attempting to win better conditions and wages for the men in this industry."

Ship's delegates are asked to take some action on the forthcoming witch-hunt, and to send their opinions to the "Voice."