

WILLKIE ATTACKS DIES PROCEDURE

Says Witnesses' Reputations
Are Ruined by Publicity
Given to Innuendoes

URGES FREE ENTERPRISE

10,000,000 Idle Could Be Put
to Work if Curbs on Capital
Were Lifted, He Asserts

Wendell L. Willkie, public utilities executive, assailed the Dies Committee Investigating Un-American Activities yesterday for employing methods "undermining the democratic process." He charged the House group with ruining reputations by publicity, inference and innuendo, while denying to witnesses the protection of counsel and an adequate opportunity to answer allegations.

Mr. Willkie spoke at the annual Fall luncheon of Columbia College's Alumni Association at the Bankers Club, 120 Broadway, before 350 alumni, who also heard an address by Lieut. Gen. Hugh A. Drum of the United States Army, commanding officer of the Second Corps Area.

The attack on the Dies Committee came, without a mention of its name, during a broadside on the abuse of discretionary power by investigating commissions and Congressional committees. Mr. Willkie later assured a questioner that he had referred to the group headed by Representative Martin Dies of Texas.

Mr. Willkie's address also contained a plea for greater attention to problems of national economy. He declared that they were being

obscured by the European war and that in some quarters the state of national emergency had been seized upon for the "further regimentation and destruction" of free private enterprise.

Opposes Dies Procedure

Discussing the Dies Committee, Mr. Willkie said he thought some of its work "fruitful," but opposed its procedure, on which, he added, "I am an expert—in reverse." As president of the Commonwealth and Southern Corporation, Mr. Willkie has been a frequent witness before investigating bodies.

"The democratic process," he asserted, "cannot go on and will be gradually undermined if men can be put on the witness stand without protection of counsel and without any adequate opportunity to answer.

"There is no more cruel way of destroying the reputation of a man than by publicity, by inference and by innuendo. And it has been done to hundreds of business men and public figures heretofore. I have hesitated to speak on it before because I might be thought of as self-serving and self-protecting, but now it is not my associates who are being investigated."

As vital to a democracy as "the democratic process" and civil liberties, Mr. Willkie said, is free private enterprise. He declared that the 10,000,000 unemployed could be put to work if restrictions were withdrawn from the free flow of capital, which, he said, is the life blood of business.

Explains High Cost of Army

General Drum advised his listeners not to be surprised at the high cost of expanding and modernizing the army. Relatively, he said, the United States Army calls for larger expenditures than any other in the world, because of the high level of costs in this country. He pointed out that from 1920 until two or three years ago the military establishment had been allowed to decline in size and grow obsolete in many respects.

Today, he continued, the government is attempting to enlarge the air force to 6,000 planes within two years. Other objectives, he explained, are a well-equipped ground force of 400,000 regulars and Na-

tional Guardsmen which can be expanded to 750,000 in an emergency, and a reserve officers corps of 90,000. The army, he said, plans to weld all land units into a field force with "team efficiency."

Both speakers were introduced by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University.