

Rockwell Kent Calls Dies Committee an 'Insult'

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Noted Artist Assails Witchhunt; Upholds Peace League Program As One Every Real American Should Support

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (UP).—Rockwell Kent, noted artist, today denounced the Dies Committee on un-American affairs as "silly" and an "insult to Americans."

In a speech before the District of Columbia chapter of the National Tuberculosis Association he denied charges before the committee that he is a Communist.



ROCKWELL KENT

Kent drew the design which appears on this year's anti-tuberculosis Christmas seals. Several weeks ago he was called a Communist by a witness before the committee, which he assailed for alleged toleration of careless, ill-founded charges.

"I am an old-fashioned American," he said:

"I am impressed by the Declaration of Independence and by the statements of Abraham Lincoln. If to change things as they are—poverty, unemployment, underprivileged—I have to endorse what are called radical measures, it merely means that I am trying to get as close to the bottom of these things as I can."

UPHOLDS PEACE LEAGUE

He said that many of the organizations enrolled in the fight against tuberculosis have been "indicted" by the committee.

"I am a member of the American League for Peace and Democracy," he continued. "I believe in its program. At its convention in Washington last year I heard not a single thing advanced that any real American would not be for."

The ALPD has been denounced by the committee as a "Communist front."

"I am chairman of the National Committee for Peoples' Rights," he added. "It has concerned itself with the problem of silicosis and its causes. We are prepared now to publish a report but our work has become so threatening to the laissez-faire of those industrialists that they are now lobbying against us in Washington. Before long we will probably be called before the Dies Committee and charged with being Communists."

Kent said that he intends to appear before the Dies Committee, which is expected to resume its local hearings in several weeks.

"I asked to appear," he said, "and I will be able to take care of myself."