

# MRS. ROOSEVELT SAYS DIES GROUP RUSHED HEARING

*NYP 12/1/39*  
**Criticizes Calling of Youth  
Congress Officers on  
Short Notice**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 (UP).—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt indirectly criticized methods of the Dies Committee today in her syndicated column, My Day.

She called attention to the short notice the committee gave American Youth Congress officers as witnesses and said she attended yesterday's committee hearings to observe what assurance the Government is giving youth that they are not being looked upon "with suspicion until they are proved guilty."

Twice yesterday Mrs. Roosevelt attended the hearing where "a group of young people whom I know"—officers of the A. Y. C. and other organizations—were testifying. Committee witnesses have accused the A. Y. C. of being dominated by Communists. Mrs. Roosevelt has said she does not believe these charges.

#### Host to A. Y. C. Officers

Mrs. Roosevelt entertained officers of the A. Y. C. at a White House luncheon yesterday before they testified at the committee hearing which he attended. They were William M. Hinckley, former chairman; Jack McMichael, present chairman; Joseph Cadden, executive secretary; Joseph Lash, executive secretary of the American Student Union, which is affiliated with the A. Y. C., and two others.

Lash was summoned by the committee today. Mrs. Roosevelt said she had "no idea," whether she would return to hear his testimony.

#### No Invitation as Yet

"When are you going to call Mrs. Roosevelt?" reporters asked Representative Starnes (Dem., Ala.) acting chairman of the committee.

"Ha, Ha, Ha!" Starnes replied.

Mrs. Roosevelt has offered to testify if the committee thinks she has any information to offer.

Chairman Dies (Dem., Tex.), who has not attended any sessions this week, said in New York last night that he doubted Mrs. Roosevelt could offer any information on subversive activities. Dies, suffering from fatigue, has been ordered by his physician to rest for two weeks.

#### Promises Her Help

"I have two real interests in this situation," Mrs. Roosevelt wrote today. "One is that as far as is humanly possible, I give young people whom I know and trust, the feeling that in any situation, particularly a difficult one, they may count on my assistance.

"My second interest is a desire to observe to what extent the Government is giving to youth the

assurance that their government does not look upon them with suspicion until they are proved guilty, and is anxious to help them in every way to build up the faith and trust in democracy which should be the heritage of every youngster in the United States."

Mrs. Roosevelt's column was written between her two appearances at the hearing and, thus, before any members of the Congress had testified. But she revealed that she met members of the A. Y. C. at the railroad station in New York Wednesday night as she was about to leave for Washington. They were en route to Washington to answer the committee summons received that afternoon.

#### Few Hours' Notice

Mrs. Roosevelt said that those who were to testify at 10 A. M. yesterday had been notified of their scheduled appearance between 4 and 5 P. M., Wednesday.

"It is usual, of course, when one appears before as important a committee as a Congressional committee," Mrs. Roosevelt said, "to have information and all material that may be called for near at hand. Of necessity, this group of young people, none of whom are affluent, had to do some tall hustling . . . particularly as Mr. Hinckley had been ill for several days and was just out of bed."