

Mrs. Roosevelt Renews Attack On Dies Inquiry

Says J.B. Matthews Handled Witnesses Like Prison- ers Considered Guilty

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.—The Dies committee virtually completed the current phases of its inquiry into un-American activities today, apparently content to regard its investigation of the American Youth Congress as a closed incident.

Meeting today under the acting chairmanship of Representative Joe Starnes, Democrat, of Alabama, the committee switched to the examination of Jay Lovestone, former general secretary of the Communist party in the United States. No mention was made of continuing with witnesses of the Youth Congress whose appearance had been the signal for three consecutive visits to the committee room by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. Members felt a fourth was imminent if the committee consented to hear Joseph Carden, executive secretary of the youth conference, who was tentatively promised a re-appearance.

Representative Martin Dies, Democrat, of Texas, chairman of the committee, will leave for his home next week for a month's rest and to prepare the report which will be presented to the next session of Congress with a request for continuance of the committee authority. Mr. Starnes explained today that if additional hearings are held they will be merely of a "clean-up" nature.

Assails Committee's Tactics

Meanwhile, Mrs. Roosevelt, in her syndicated column "My Day," dated Friday and published here today, commented on the committee's procedure.

"The majority of the questions," she wrote, "were asked by Mr. J. B. Matthews, and his whole attitude, tone of voice and phraseology made me feel that a prisoner, considered guilty, was being tried at the bar. I surmised that this impression was made on other people, for in a little while a gentleman came around and whispered in Mr. Matthew's ear. I have no way of knowing what was said and it may have been entirely irrelevant to the matters in hand, but in any case it was soothing to Mr. Matthews, for immediately the atmosphere changed. His voice was softer, his manners were more courteous. He was asking questions from another free citizen of the United States.

"The one important point which stands out to me after listening in on these hearings, is the fact that what is said by people about other individuals or groups is not half as important as discovering what the people themselves working in these organizations, say and do.

"Malignant Cancer"

"The only other interesting incident was when Mr. Matthews, who evidently is sensitive about what is said about him, remarked heatedly that an untruthful statement had been made about him in yesterday's testimony. It was almost at the end of the hearing and though a request was made to answer this remark from the record, it could not be done at the time, but I feel sure that the

committee will receive the answer later on."

Lovestone, expelled from the Communist party in 1929—after a dispute with Josef V. Stalin, declared that he and the group expelled with him sought re-unification with the party until 1936, when they finally decided that no form of democracy could exist in the Communist party as now constituted.

"Communism today," he testified, "is an extraordinary malignant cancer which cannot be cured because the surgeons always have to cut out the healthy tissue and leave the diseased to flourish. The Soviet invasion of Finland is not red imperialism—it is yellow imperialism—plain yellow."

The Communist party is now busy disseminating "pro-Hitler-Stalin propaganda" and is isolationist because American isolation now serves Stalin's use, he said.

The American League for Peace and Democracy is "nothing but a tool of the Communists," the witness testified, adding that although he had no evidence, "both my olfactory nerve and my sense of scientific investigation tell me" that both the American Student Union and the American Youth Congress are dominated by Communists.