

AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION  
C. I. O.

December 21, 1939

TO: All Locals  
FROM: International Executive Board  
SUBJECT: Enclosed Pamphlet

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The enclosed pamphlet, prepared by the San Francisco chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, provides interesting and valuable subject matter for discussion by our locals. It is a documented brief exposing the real nature of the Dies Committee, and showing its anti-union purpose and character. The title "Indictment - People of the United States of America versus the Dies Committee," is supported by the evidence presented in the pamphlet.

Our union has been among those maliciously attacked and slandered by the Dies Committee. Dies finds it convenient to "investigate" a union at a crucial period in its negotiations with an employer in the industry. The most recent and flagrant examples of his attempts to break strikes were the cases of the Packing-house Workers in Chicago, the United Automobile Workers in Detroit, the National Maritime Union and our own Western Union San Francisco strike.

We can expect and anticipate that with the coming critical situation which is developing with respect to the attempts of the companies to secure uncontrolled merger, that Mr. Dies will direct his attention toward our union. He will no doubt receive the assistance of the leadership of the CTU, which will act as a willing tool in an attempt to discredit our union.

Our membership should be kept informed so that we can be prepared to combat the insidious, subversive, un-Americanism of Mr. Dies.

Additional copies of this pamphlet may be secured at 20¢ each from the San Francisco chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, 1308 Balfour Building, San Francisco, Calif.

Fraternally,

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mervyn Rathborne, President  
R. A. Pyle, V. P. Marine Div.  
Michael Mignon, V. P., PTP Div.  
J. P. Selly, V. P., Telegraph Div.  
Leonard Ohl, V. P., Broadcast Div.  
J. E. Croney, V. P., Marine Div.  
Harold Taylor, V. P., PTP Div.  
Douglas Ward, VP, Telegraph, Div.

## Dies vs. Knox

*copy to Ronald Post  
1/4/21/42*

THE DIES COMMITTEE was about to unloose a hot blast against Secretary of the Navy Knox, the other day, accusing him of keeping Communists as radio operators on wartime ships. But nothing happened, and some people are wondering why.

Behind this mystery is an interesting insight on how the Dies Committee operates.

Martin Dies, chairman, was in Texas at the time. How much he knew of the proposed blast against Secretary Knox is problematical. No other member of the Dies Committee was in Washington except Jerry Voorhis of California and he knew nothing about the matter. However, Robert Stripling, secretary of the committee, was going to blast the Secretary of the Navy anyway.

Here is the inside story of what happened. Some time ago, the Radio Officers Union, an A. F. of L. organization, submitted evidence to the Navy and the Dies Committee that members of a rival C. I. O. union were Communists, but were employed as radio operators on merchant ships used by the Navy.

As a result, 7 of these C. I. O. radio operators were discharged, and about 13 others blacklisted.

Later the matter came to the personal attention of Secretary Knox, and he, anxious to be fair, asked that Wayne Morse, former Dean of the University of Oregon Law School and now a member of the War Labor Board, review the case.

Morse found that charges against the radio operators were groundless, that their worst offense was membership in groups labeled "radical" by the Dies Committee, such as the defunct League for Peace and Democracy. He even found that some of the blacklisted operators had made outstanding contributions to the war. For instance, Wayne Paschal of New York, a member of the C. I. O. American Communications Association, had worked out a fool-proof recording device, now used on merchant ships, to prevent espionage by radio men. Yet he and the others had been branded by the Dies Committee.

On receiving Morse's recommendations, Knox reinstated the discharged operators. However, the Dies Committee's secretary, Bob Stripling, learned of the reinstatements through Fred M. Howe, head of the A. F. of L. union, and the fur has been flying ever since.

Knox, anxious to avoid a public brawl with Dies, had his aides contact Jerry Voorhis, another member of the committee, who has promised to keep Stripling under control. However, Voorhis has made no promises regarding Dies himself when he returns to Washington.