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THE Senate slapped Martin Dies down ^{DWS 5/9/6 - Adam Lakin} the other day when it refused to go along with the House in passing an amendment to the Independent Offices appropriation bill specifically barring Goodwin Watson from his job in the Federal Communications Commission.

Watson, who is a foreign propaganda analyst for the FCC, has long been a target of the Dies Committee. Rep. Joe Starnes of Alabama, a member of the Dies Committee, sponsored an amendment which was passed in the House stating that no part of the FCC appropriation could go to pay Watson's salary.

Fortunately, James L. Fly, chairman of the FCC, refused to take this attack lying down. He went before the Senate Appropriations Committee and put up a strong fight for Watson. In the meantime, he insisted on keeping the FCC propaganda analyst on the job.

While Fly failed to persuade the Senate Appropriations Committee, he did succeed in persuading Majority Leader Alben Barkley of the importance of rejecting the anti-Watson provision in the appropriation bill. Barkley made a stirring speech pointing out that this provision was a bill of attainder aiming at a specific person and was a violation of the Constitution. In addition, Barkley defended Watson's right to approve the achievements of the Soviet Union, which had been challenged by the Dies Committee. Barkley won his point hands down.

There is an important object lesson in this little incident. Dies can be licked if the administration takes a strong stand against him as Fly and Barkley did in this case. The next step is to knock out the provision barring Watson from the payroll when the appropriation bill goes to conference between the House and Senate committees.