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Dies Heeds Barry SOS, Plots to Elect Defeatists

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(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, June 12.—Rep. Martin Dies has decided to enter the 1942 Congressional elections in a large-scale drive to protect defeatists running for office and to smear win-the-war candidates.

The Dies Committee was extremely active in the 1938 elections and conducted hearings designed to discredit progressive and New Deal candidates.

The report has been current for some time in informed circles here that Dies would throw himself with even greater vigor into this year's elections as soon as he is finished with his own primary which takes place on July 25 and which has been occupying most of his time.

But the first public revelation that the Dies Committee is now laying the groundwork for a smear campaign on behalf of Congressional defeatists was made by Rep. William B. Barry, prominent America Firster who is running for re-election in the Second District in Queens.

Rep. Barry declared that the Dies Committee is at his request investigating the Union for Democratic Action, a New York group which is campaigning against the election of defeatists.

At the end of a diatribe against the UDA which he inserted in the Congressional Record of June 10, Barry said:

"Permit me to reiterate that the opposition of this scurrilous crowd to the UDA whom I am now suing or libel and whom the Dies Com-



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mittee is now investigating at my request, and that of others), is based on my unrelenting opposition to Communism—and for no other reason."

The phrase "and others" in Barry's statement is particularly significant since it indicates that a smear attack on the UDA will be only a jumping off place for a broader drive against all forces campaigning for a win-the-war Congress.

Dies Committee cooperation in smearing the UDA has already been evident in several recent stories in the defeatist Chicago Tribune. These stories drew liberally on Dies Committee records in attacking members of the UDA as "Communists."

It is considered likely that the

Dies Committee will go further and single out several key congressional contests as worthy of hearings designed to boost the defeatist candidate.

THE SAME TECHNIQUE

This was the technique the committee followed in the 1938 elections when it held hearings for the sole purpose of defeating former Governor Elmer Benson of Minnesota, Associate Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy who was then Governor of Michigan and other candidates who supported the Roosevelt administration.

The threat of Dies Committee intervention in the Congressional elections confronts the administration and House liberals and progressives with an immediate challenge.

Administration leaders in the House supported extension of the Dies Committee, but they can hardly afford to permit the Texas Congressman to campaign for the defeat of Administration-supported candidates.

The only answer is a resolution repealing the continuation of the committee. Increasing House opposition to the Dies Committee in recent months shows it is possible that such a resolution can be passed—particularly if it is proven that Dies is cooperating in the election of defeatist candidates.

HITLERITE LINE

Dies and his committee have continued to follow the Hitlerite anti-Communist line which is expected to be the main election issue of the leading defeatist such as Rep. Barry. Both Dies and his chief associate

on the committee, Rep. Joe Starnes of Alabama, were singled out as men who should be beaten in the elections in a list of 23 leading obstructionists in the House and three in the Senate prepared by the UDA in collaboration with the New Republic.

This may provide Dies and Starnes with a personal incentive for starting their intervention in the 1942 Congressional elections with an attack on the UDA.

Dies Committee members and ranking staff employes were not available for comment on the Barry statement and on the Committee's election plans—at least not to the Daily Worker.

Starnes, who is acting chairman of the committee while Dies is campaigning for re-election in his own district, was "not in" or "in conference" every time this correspondent called.

Telephone calls to the office of Rep. J. Parnell Thomas (Feeney) of New Jersey, leading Republican member of the committee, were also to no avail.

Rep. Thomas's secretary said "just a minute" when this correspondent called yesterday for the first time, and apparently after consulting her boss, announced that the Congressman was "busy." Another call this morning produced the brusque reply that Mr. Thomas "will not be in all day."

A girl at the Dies Committee office said that Robert Stripling, committee secretary, "is out of town." A secretary in the office of J. B. Mathews, renegade liberal and chief committee investigator, trotted out the "Just a moment line" and then said that "Dr. Mathews is not in, and I don't know when he'll be back."

The emphasis was on the "Dr." since this correspondent had referred to Mathews simply as "Mr."