

FURTHER REPORT ON MARTIN DIES

ILD 7/3/42

Martin Dies is trying, so far with some apparent success, to make the people of the United States pay his personal bills. Mr. Dies was sued for \$75,000 for libel by a man he smeared, not in an official report, but in a letter to the Vice-President. The libel was so clear that Dies settled for court costs of \$611. Then he got his committee to ask the Accounts Committee to pay the bill. The Accounts Committee has agreed. And there it stands, unless there's enough hullabaloo about this dipping into public funds to pay the bills incurred by Dies for his personal pleasures that something is done about it in the House.

This raises the whole question: if Dies had fought the libel suit and lost, would the public be forced by the Accounts Committee to pay the whole \$75,000 damages plus further enormous court costs? Incidentally, if Dies could be sued for all the lies contained in his reports, by the people he lies about, the amount would be in millions. Unfortunately, he is immune from prosecution for libels contained in official reports.

Additional on Dies Editorials In the first two weeks of July, 65 editorials on Dies appeared in 400 daily papers surveyed. Of these, 23 supported Dies, 37 were against him, and five were neutral comment. Add this to the previous report (see Legislative Letter # 26) and we have a total in the three weeks following issuance of Dies' latest official report (June 25), of 24 editorials supporting him, 67 opposing him, and five merely commenting in more or less neutral fashion. It's evident the realities of war are loosening Dies' defeatist grip on the press.

Now that the Department of Justice is acting against the domestic fascists (most of the 28 persons indicted, and of the many organizations and publications named, last week, are among Dies' most enthusiastic supporters) the fight to end his influence altogether should be brought to a head. Have you written to your local newspaper and to your own Congressman yet, pointing out the similarity between Dies' activities and those of the 28 domestic fascists indicted?

NAACP Asks Elimination of Dies Committee

The Annual Conference of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People recently held in Los Angeles, which was devoted to discussion of Win-The-War policy, adopted a resolution condemning the Dies Committee, asking President Roosevelt to set up a new Commission to investigate real subversive activities, such as those of the Ku Klux Klan and the Coughlinites.