

NEGRO GROUPS HIT DIES COMMITTEE, URGE DISBANDING

D.C. 11/6/39

Chicago Conference Warns Negroes of Nation of Attacks on Organizations Which Have Been Staunch Defenders of Race

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5.—Recognizing that abrogation of democratic rights in the nation will strike minority groups with telling force, Negroes in several parts of the country joined hands with other progressive groups this week to fight for preservation of civil liberties, extension of social legislation and dissolution of the Dies Committee.

The Negro's offensive against the Texas Congressman's un-American activities was understood to have been motivated by the fact that not only his unbridled assaults threaten their limited liberties, but also by a growing realization that the organizations against which he directs his main fire are the staunchest champions for equal rights for Negroes.

Two leading Negro papers, The Chicago Defender and The Baltimore Afro-American delivered blistering attacks upon the Committee's witch-hunting drive this week, and demanded a halt to its activities.

The campaign in Chicago was undertaken at a Defense Conference called by the International Labor Defense and attended by a large group of Negroes. Chicago's South Side Negro Alderman, Earl B. Dickerson, was elected chairman of a permanent Executive Board that was set up to guide the work. Another Negro leader, William L. Patterson, Associated Editor of the Crusader News Agency, was also elected to the Board.

PATTERSON HITS WARMAKERS

Speaking at the conference, Patterson assailed the Dies Committee for its attack on constitutional liberties. He declared that the Committee's assaults on the Communist Party was the prerequisite

for a general offensive upon all liberal organizations and individuals throughout the nation. He pointed to Germany and France as examples and showed that the beheading of the advanced defenders of the people's rights invariably precedes the general blacking out of all rights.

"This has been proven true here in America by the assault Dies now makes upon government employees who have the courage to connect themselves with the League for Peace and Democracy," he said.

"The defense of the Communist Party and its activities constitutes a defense of liberalism in America," he added.

The awakening of the Negroes to the Dies' menace was further observed by the action of the Southern Negro Youth Congress pointing to the denial of opportunities to Negro youth which Dies and his class wilfully foster, as well as the renewed activities of the Ku Klux Klan in terrorizing the Negro people in the South, the Youth Congress sent a letter to Dies' Committee urging it investigate the un-Americanism of the hooded order.

"The failure of your committee to investigate the un-Americanism of mob rule will prove to Negro Americans that your committee in reality is working to destroy the influence of these organizations in our country which are fighting for the rights of Negroes," the letter stated.