

# Taft Scores Dies Inquiry

A call for Congressman Jerry Voorhis to resign from the Dies Committee in protest against its action this week came from Dr. Clinton J. Taft, director of the Civil Liberties Union.

Dr. Taft, a speaker before a crowded meeting of the HANL at First Unitarian Church, launched a campaign also against further allocations for the financing of the Dies Committees' investigations.

Warning that hysteria stirred up by war-mongers threatens democracy, as it did in days preceding America's entry in the World War, Dr. Taft pointed to the Dies probe as an example and condemned the Committee for "using the most un-American methods which have yet been discovered."

"They have raided offices and seized literature without due process of law," he said. "They have pounced on national figures exclusively because the American ideas they voiced did not coincide with that dominant with those of the Committee.

"Even the President had to come out and call it a sordid procedure."

"Dies is going before Congress and asking for more money to continue the life of his Com-

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mittee and if he gets it, he's coming out here to smear Hollywood in proper style.

"Before we are subjected to this un-American procedure, it seems to me it behooves us to get the LaFollette Committee to come out here and tell the truth about Associated Farmers and the genuinely anti-democratic groups which operate in our territory."

Congressman Voorhis was appointed to the Dies Committee as a "kind of a sop" to those who regarded the probe so heavily weighted with reactionaries that only prejudiced findings could be expected, Dr. Taft declared.

"They chose him thinking they could placate those who find their procedure objectionable," he continued.

"Jerry has been on the committee but he hasn't been able to do anything to make it American.

"I think the finest thing Jerry could do would be to resign from the Committee and rebuke it roundly.

"Thirty liberals in the House voted for him to do just that and pronounced Dies and his associates a 'fascist committee.' I believe Jerry would be doing the greatest service to democracy, if he would take this step."