

Dies Mark Selection

I. THE DIES COMMITTEE HAS WHITENASHED THE ACTIVITIES OF AT LEAST NINE OF THE PRO-AXIS PROPAGANDISTS INDICTED BY THE GRAND JURY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN JULY, 1942

A. Gerald B. Winrod

"Mr. Metcalfe (John B. Metcalfe, Investigator for the Committee): This (indicating) is the Defenders, of Wichita, Kans., headed by Rev. Gerald B. Winrod. . . I think his activities have been pretty generally publicized. . ."

"The Chairman (Rep. Martin Dies): The Chair received a letter from Dr. Winrod in which he denied that he had preached any anti-semitism and denied that he is sympathetic with fascism. He says he is absolutely opposed to fascism and nazism and is opposed to racial and religious hatred, and denies that he has disseminated any literature preaching racial or religious hatred. . ."

"Mr. Metcalfe: You will notice that he is also recommended by the swastika-~~...~~ publications. . ."

"The Chairman: But you cannot always go by that . . ."

(Hearings of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, henceforth cited as Hearings, Vol. 3, p. 2373,)

"The Chairman: Going back to Winrod, I want to get some definite statement of Gerald B. Winrod, in view of the fact that he has issued denials and protested vigorously. . . we do not want to do any injustice." (Ibid., p. 2375)

H. D. Allen, . . . testifies that Winrod's literature was on sale at meetings of the Silver Shirts and Friends of New Germany (predecessor of the German-American Bund). (Vol/6, p. 4034)

Gerald B. Winrod was never subpoenaed by the Committee.

*Voluntary chairman
Policy to admit selection
must show only*

*proof
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*include
1947*

B. GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK

"George Sylvester Viereck, Author, Friend of Ex-Kaiser, Subpoenaed, Cancels Passage To Europe." (New York Times, August 4, 1938, headline)

The New York Times, on this date, reported that Viereck had ~~been~~ been served with a subpoena by the Dies Committee, then less than ~~two~~ three months old.

The official Index to the Hearings of the Dies Committee reveals that Viereck is not mentioned until page 7544, in volume 12, on the date of April 2, 1940.

Viereck sailed for Europe in August 1938 and returned several months later.

His name appears for the first time in the hearing during the testimony of Miss Dorothy Waring.

"Miss Waring: . . . I discovered that Colonel Emerson (of the Friends of New Germany) and I had a mutual friend, Mr. George Sylvester Viereck, and that was before Mr. Viereck became an agent of the Nazi Government."

"The Chairman (Mr. Dies): I know him." (Hearings, Vol. 12, p. 7544, April 2, 1940)

Rep. Wright Patman of Texas testified before the Committee on August 29, 1940.

"Mr. Patman: . . . I ask the committee to investigate the connection of Lieutenant Colonel (Carl) Byoir and George Sylvester Viereck and George Sylvester Viereck, Lt. Col. Byoir and Dr. Westrick.

"Mr. (Noah) Mason: . . . Of course Viereck has not anything to do with the question before this committee. . . ."

"The Chairman (Mr. Dies): We are investigating Mr. Byoir." (Hearings, Vol. 14, p. 8208, August 29, 1940)

George Sylvester Viereck has never appeared before the Committee. He failed to comply with the subpoena of August, 1938, but has not been prosecuted, by the Committee, for his failure to do so.

Wright Patman

C. WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY

"Mr. (Rhea) Whitley (Counsel to the Committee): Is that after you and Mr. Pelley had disagreed."

"Mr. (Fritz) Kuhn (then head of the German-American Bund): We never disagreed."
(Hearings, Vol. 6, p. 3792, August 16, 1939)

"Mr. Whitley: Did you ever meet Mr. William Dudley Pelley?"

"Mr. (Henry D.) Allen: I have. . . I met him at a meeting w . . . which had been called for the rank and file of Silver Shirts in that area at the German House.

"Mr. Whitley: That is the headquarters of the German-American Bund in Los Angeles?"

"Mr. Allen: Yes."

(Hearings, Vol. 6, August 22, 1939, p. 3794.)

"The Chairman (Mr. Dies): Now I believe that Mr. Pelley has been indicating in the papers that he wanted to appear. . . the Committee has given him every opportunity to appear here and confront the evidence. . ."

(Hearings, Vol. 6, p. 4182, August 28, 1939)

"The Chairman (Mr. Dies): I think the statement ought also to be made that Mr. Pelley's operations are on a nationwide scale; that here you are not dealing with a small-time, small-town fellow; that he is disseminating, you might say, tons of literature throughout the United States."

(Hearings, Vol. 6, p. 4184, August 28, 1939)

"Mr. Pelley: I founded the Silver Legion in 1933, contiguous to the appearance of the so-called New Deal of the Democratic administration at Asheville, North Carolina, to propagandize exactly the same principle that Mr. Dies and this Committee are engaged in prosecuting right now."

(Hearings, Vol. 12, p. 7207-8, February 7, 1940)

"Mr. Pelley: One of the things is meeting the Committee face-to-face and learning they are a fine group of Christian gentlemen. I have had - and I confess it publicly to go into the record - within the past six weeks a total change of heart towards the work of the Dies Committee."

(Hearings, Vol. 12, p. 7220, February 7, 1940)

The record discloses that at the time of his appearance Mr. Pelley had been evading a subpoena of the Committee for more than 90 days, without prosecution of this by the Committee. (Ibid., pp. ~~7202-3~~ 7202-3)

"Mr. Pelley: I subscribe to that so completely and to the work of the Dies Committee - and I have expressed it outside in publications - that if its work continues and goes on, the Silver Shirt Legion stops. We have no more use for it. . ."

"Mr. (J. Parnell Thomas, Representative from the State of New Jersey) Thomas: Do I understand you to say that if the Dies Committee continues with its investigations, the Silver Legion will immediately fold up?"

"Mr. Pelley: I would say yes, with my blessing. If the Dies Committee will go ahead - "
(Hearings, Vol. 12, p. 7247, February 7, 1940)

C. WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY (CONT.)

"In 1938, William Dudley Pelley was spreading a million pieces of literature over the country. The religious bigots organized in Pelley's Silver Shirts have now lost their leader. Immediately as Pelley was placed on the stand before our Committee he ordered the dissolution of his Silver Shirt band. We had exposed it out of existence."

(Investigation of Un-American Propaganda Activities in the United States, Report No. 1 (of the Dies Committee), 77 Cong., 1 Sess., January 3, 1941, to the House of Representatives, p. 22)

The fallacy of this statement is demonstrated by the proceedings against ~~W.D.~~ Pelley both within the jurisdiction of the Grand Jury of the District of Columbia and in other Federal and State jurisdictions since December 8, 1941.

Pertinent information concerning ~~W.D.~~ Pelley's activities suppressed by the Dies Committee includes, correspondence:

"Mr. (Robert) Barker (Investigator for the Committee): He (Pelley) is in correspondence with several members of Congress here, I see, and secretaries to leaders of the German-American Bund." ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

(Hearings, Vol. 6, p. 4220,)

Also evidence that Pelley received money from foreign countries (~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ibid., p. 4221)

During examination, Pelley agreed with a Committee request and promised to submit for the record names of Silver Shirt leaders and other pertinent information about the organization. No such information is found in the entire record. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

(Hearings, Vol. 12, p. 7211-12, February 7, 1940)

D. CHARLES B. HUDSON

"The Chairman (Mr. Dies): Take up the organization, America in Danger!

"Mr. Metcalf (Investigator for the Committee): That is another organization which we have not as yet checked. . . .

"The Chairman: That is an organization that is supposed to have headquarters in Omaha, Neb. . . . This is more or less of a racket, but I think it is well to expose some of these. . . ."

(Hearings, Vol. 3, p. 2344, November 19, 1938)

"Mr. Whitley: Have you ever had any contact with Mr. Charles B. Hudson of America in Danger?

"General (George Van Horn) Meseley (

): Yes. . . . he is a fine soul, one of the outstanding characters of that kind in America."

(Hearings, Vol. 5, p. 3696, June 1, 1939)

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D. CHARLES B. HUDSON (CONT.)

"Mr. Whitley: General (Moseley), you have had several gentlemen with you the last several days. Do you mind identifying them for the record, the gentlemen who have assisted you and been present with you the last several days here?"

"General Moseley: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Mr. George E. Sullivan
Mr. Charles B. Hudson, Omaha, Neb.; and Mr. (Jacob) Thorkelson,
a Member of Congress."

(Ibid., p. 3703)

Henry D. Allen testified that in August, 1938, he attended an "anti-communist" convention at the German House, headquarters of the German-American Bund, in Los Angeles, California which was attended, among others by:

Charles B. Hudson
Herman Schwinn, leader of the western division, German-American Bund
William Kullgren (see supra)
a representative of Pelley's Silver Shirts

(Hearings, Vol. 6, p. 3994,)

Charles B. Hudson, though physically present before the Dies Committee, during the above mentioned session, was never subpoenaed.

E. WILLIAM KULLGREN

"Mr. Whitley (Investigator for the Committee): (William Kullgren is) formerly one of Mr. Pelley's chief lieutenants, but now he has his own organization." . . . "he devotes considerable space (in Beacon Light, February, 1939), to material which is anti-Semitic material, which has been furnished to him by the World Service of Erfurt, Germany."

(Hearings, Vol. 5, p. 3689-90,)

Kullgren participating in the August, 1938, German House conference (see above)
Kullgren corresponded with Edward James Smythe (see supra)

(Hearings, Vol. 6, p. 4273,)

F. EUGENE NELSON SANCTUARY

"The Chairman (Mr. Dies): What about the American Christian Defenders?"

"Mr. Metcalfe: ". . . that is an organization of Colonel E. N. Sanctuary of New York City. Colonel Sanctuary was a speaker at one time before the German Bund.

"The Chairman: ". . . The American people are so gullible that these organizations prey upon them. It appears to be a racket. . ."

(Hearings, Vol. 3, p. 2345, November 19, 1938)

*Metcalfe's
test all suppressed -
repeatedly said go on
Metcalfe should be
asked by way of
suppression*

*no indication
Dies ever
intended to do
anything.*

Eugene Nelson Sanctuary was never subpoenaed or called to testify before the Committee

G. ROBERT EDWARD EDMONDSON

"Mr. Metcalfe: (Robert Edward) Edmondson . . . the director of the Edmondson Economic Service. . . is the featured speaker of the German-American Bund."

(Hearings, Vol. 3, pp. 2373-4, November 19, 1938)

"Mr. Whitley: Do you know Edmondson. . . Have you ever praised his work?"

"Mr. (Fritz) Kuhn: Yes.

"Mr. Whitley: You praised him and complimented him on the work he was performing?"

"Mr. Kuhn: Yes."

(Hearings, Vol. 6, p. 3791,)

A telegram from Pelley to Edmondson, on March 24, 1939, introduced by Mr. Barker, Investigator for the Committee said:

"Can forward you 5,000 4-page Dies bulletins. Do you want Edmondson imprint bottom fourth page. Wire. answer."

(Hearings, Vol. 6, p. 4267,)

In addition, Fritz Kuhn testified that he had invited Edmondson to speak at a mass meeting sponsored by the German American Bund in Madison Square Garden.

(Ibide, p. 3886)

Mr. Metcalfe, Committee investigator, also reported Edmondson's participation in the Asheville, N.C., conference of 1936, a rump session of which included Col. E. N. Sanctuary, Edmondson, George Deatherage of the Knights of the White Camellia, and a representative of Gerald B. Winrod.

(Hearings,)

Edward James Smythe was in correspondence with Edmondson, as well as with Deatherage, James True, Kullgren, Pelley, James Wheeler-Hill, secretary of the German American Bund, Winrod, and Cherep-Spiridevich, as well as many others according to evidence introduced by Mr. Rhea Whitley.

(Hearings, Vol. 6, pp. 4271-3,)

"Bund literature mingles with that of William Dudley Pelley, Robert Edmondson, Mrs. Fry, and George Deatherage on the tables of this convention ("so-called anti-communist convention ... at bund headquarters in Los Angeles" in August 1938.)

(Appendix Part IV, Committee on Un-American Activities, p. 1468), 1941)

"Robert Edmondson, disseminator of fascist literature. . . ."

(Investigation of Un-American Propaganda Activities in the United States, Report No. 1476, 76 Cong., 3 Sess., January 3, 1940, p. 18)

"The following organizations and individuals took part in one way or another in this attempt to create united Fascist movement. . . . Robert E. Edmondson."

(Ibid., p. 23)

Robert Edward Edmondson was never subpoenaed by the Dies Committee nor did the Committee make any effort, through exposure, to limit his activities.

H. JAMES C. TRUE

H. JAMES G. TRUE

"The Chairman: Let us take up these organizations which you have investigated. The first one is America First, Inc., Washington, D.C. . . .

"Mr. Metcalfe: . . . This is an organization which we have not as yet checked on but/which we have considerable literature of an anti-Semitic character and also of a pro-Japanese character . . . The head of this organization is James True . . . He publishes what is known as Industrial Control Reports."
(Hearings, Vol. 3, p. 3342,)

"Mr. Whitley: What has been your contact or association with Mr. True?

"Mr. Detherage: Well, I have known Jim True probably for five years and I have worked with him in every possible way I can. There isn't anything I wouldn't do for him.

"Mr. Whitley: Have you ever conferred with him on matters of policy?

"Mr. Detherage: A thousand times; yes."

(Hearings?, Vol. 5, p. 3470,)

"Mr. Detherage: Well, . . . I know that Mr. True gets literature from all over the world . . . I know that he gets it from a great many foreign countries . . . he is a pal; he is a honey, that boy."

(Ibid., p. 3537,)

"Mr. Whitley: How about Mr. James True; was he invited? (to Bund meeting at Madison Square Garden, November, 1938.)

"Mr. Kuhn: Yes . . ."

(Hearings, Vol. 6, p. 3767,)

"Mr. Whitley: Did you ever publish Mr. James True's material in the Weekruf?

"Mr. Kuhn: think we did . . ."

"Mr. Whitley: And are you in agreement with Mr. True's publication?

"Mr. Kuhn: Well, his publication is very good, sometimes."

(Ibid., p. 3798)

"Mr. Joseph Starnes: Do you know James True?

"Mr. Pelley: I do, sir.

"Mr. Starnes: Have you had any connection with him in furthering the Silver Shirt Legion program?

"Mr. Pelley: Only to the extent that Mr. True has from time to time in his Industrial Control Reports, very graciously publicized a new item of publication which I might bring out . . ."

"Mr. Starnes: Has Mr. True or his organization or his concern or his associates ever contributed any money to the support of the Silver Shirt Legion and its program?

"Mr. Pelley: Only for such literature as they have bought on a commercial basis . . ."

"Mr. Starnes: Will you furnish the Committee the amounts . . ."

"Mr. Pelley: I shall be delighted to do so."

(Hearings, Vol. 12, p. 7267,)

H. JAMES C. TRUE (CONT'D.)

"A group of delegates here for the National Conference of Clergymen and Laymen yesterday withdrew from the conference and made plans to hold separate meetings at the First Christian Church. They explained they withdrew because the word 'Christian' had been omitted from the name of the conference and because Jews had been placed on the program. . . . Talks in which the Jewish race was linked with Communism were made by Gerald Winrod . . .

Outside the church, E. F. Elmhurst, who said he was from New York, distributed copies of 'Pelley's Weekly', dated August 12. Other literature of the Silver Shirt movement, an anti-Semitic organization, also was given out by Elmhurst. . . . Dr. Vaughn announced that organization plans for the dissenting group would be discussed at a meeting this afternoon at the Langren Hotel. He also announced that Edward F. Sullivan, said to be a Boston journalist, would speak at 8 o'clock tonight . . .

(Asheville, North Carolina, "Citizen", August 14, 1936)

Edward F. Sullivan later became an investigator for the Dies Committee.

The Asheville "Citizen" of the following day reported Mr. Sullivan's speech, saying "Who has the economic control of the country, who has the control of the motion pictures, the filthy magazines, who is fast appropriating the newspapers of the country?" he asked, leaving the question unanswered directly but leaving the impression that it was the Jews. . . . From now on Christians in America are going to speak out The 'Christian' group yesterday named a committee to arrange details of the Washington conference. In addition to Dr. Winrod, the Chairman . . . The following were named to the advisory council: James True of Washington, D.C. and list of 38 names."

yes done

I. EDWARD JAMES SMYTHE

"The Chairman (Mr. Dies): Now is Edward James Smythe here . . .

"Mr. Whitley: He was subpoenaed some time ago and he did not reply to the subpoena . . ."

(Hearings, Vol. 6, p. 4368)

"The Chairman: The reason the Committee is going into cases like Smythe, who, of course, is just a raskateer, is because the evidence is there in writing that many people, some of whom are very prominent people, were drawn into this thing, or were duped by it."

(Ibid., p. 4371)

"Mr. Whitley: . . . Now, some of the individuals or organizations which Mr. Smythe was in contact with over a period of a number of years are the following . . . He had correspondence with the German-American Bund, particularly with Mr. James Wheeler Hill, Secretary of the Bund. The correspondence indicates . . . a very friendly relationship between Mr. Smythe and his organization and the Bund . . . (p. 4371) . . . Voluminous correspondence with the Veghter Cherep-Spiridovich - which is very active in the White Russian Fascist group; Gerald B. Winrod, Wichita, Kans; . . . (4372-3) . . . Numerous contacts with George Detherage, St. Albans, W. Va.; Robert Edward Edmonson; James True . . . William Kullgren, editor of the Beacon Light, Atascadero, Calif. . . . William Dudley Pelley . . ."

(Hearings, Vol. 6, p.p. 4271-3,)

"The Chairman: We have all of these facts before us (the facts referred to Smythe's correspondence with outstanding American fascists including the following who are now under indictment: Gerald B. Winrod; James True; Robert Edward Edmonson; William Dudley Pelley; William Kullgren), and we have not decided whether we are going to locate Mr. Smythe any further or not. There are a great many letters here including letters from prominent people. We ought to determine which ones we shall make public . . . we have in that file a great deal of correspondence from people all over the country . . . there have been so many people who have been duped in this country by the Nazi and fascist organizations, that if we should mention them all, it would make a tremendous record. But those who really participated in it, if they knew about it and where there is some evidence of their participation ~~that is displayed in the United States in movement~~ Mr. Whitley: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that all of these organizations I have mentioned here come in the category of those actively participating. I did not include any individuals whose actions or motives were not obvious from the correspondence."

"The Chairman: I know; but that brings up the question whether it is right to disclose the names of those people and let some of these other people get by . . . We can make this correspondence public at a later date."

(Hearings, Vol. 6, p. 3274,)

with 200 notes p. 10

W. H. H.

W. H. H.

COALITION OF PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES

"And I want to record the fact that the splendid aid we have received from such organizations as . . . the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies . . . has made it possible for us to carry on."
("No More Immigrants", Representative Martin Dies, Liberty Magazine, March 30, 1940, p. 14.)

Representative Dies was one of the chief speakers at the meeting of the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies, whose sponsors include James True and John Trevor, on January 27, 1939 at the Carlton Hotel, Washington, D. C. Another speaker at this meeting was Merwin K. Hart, head of the New York State Economic Council. Dies had previously spoken at a meeting of the Council on December 8, 1941, at the Hotel Biltmore. Among the guests of this meeting were Fritz Kuhn and James Wheeler Hill of the German-American Bund, George Wilhelm Kunze and Frederick Williams, then editor of the Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter.

(Speech of Representative Frank Hook of Michigan,
Congressional Record, January 22, 1940.)

Parenthetically, Merwin K. Hart's only appearance before the Dies Committee was in secret session.

Merwin K. Hart presided at a meeting in honor of Martin Dies on November 29, 1939 in Madison Square Garden.

One of the early witnesses before the Committee was Walter S. Steele, who testified on behalf of a number of organizations including the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies, and appeared as an expert on 'Communism'. Mr. Steele himself was never investigated by the Committee nor was he questioned concerning the activities of the groups he represented.
(EK: Check Volume 1 for Steele's identification.)

President Roosevelt, in a letter to Representative Dies on November 26, 1940, said:

"I know that you will also see the point when I suggest that in the regular conduct of administrative work of this nature, carefully laid plans for the obtaining of further information, which may lead to the breaking up of subversive activities, may be severely handicapped or completely destroyed by premature disclosure of facts or of suppositions to the public, or by hasty seizure of evidence which might with a little more patience be obtained in a manner to be admissible in court, or by the giving of immunities to witnesses before congressional committees as to matters revealed by their own testimony.

.. ."

"The Chairman (Mr. Dies): Of course, the Committee's idea with reference to some of these people is simply this - in asking them to appear to explain certain evidence that we have gathered. From the standpoint of trying to learn anything from them, I don't think the Committee will get anything from them, because in the first place they are not going to come here and testify truthfully."

(Hearings, Vol. 9, p. 4216, August 21, 1939)