

*ignore markings*

*Appendix C*

February 9, 1942.

**MEMORANDUM TO:**

**Members of the House of Representatives of the United States and All Patriotic Americans<sup>(1)</sup>**

**SUBJECT:**

**"Pro-Axis Leanings of the Dies Committee Hinder U. S. War Effort"**

*(note: to have note indicating subsequent adjustments (i.e. towards) donations (i.e. U. S. Bank, Duggan) etc*

This is a factual memorandum based on the record of the Dies Committee.

The life of the Special Committee on un-American Activities, commonly known as the Dies Committee, expires March 31, 1942. On January 23rd, Representative Martin Dies introduced H. Res. 420 to extend the Committee's life until January 3rd, 1943.

The Dies Committee was created by H. Res. 282 in the 3rd session of the 75th Congress. Its first public hearings were held on August 12, 1938. In the intervening period of approximately three and a half years the Committee has spent \$385,000, yet failed to perform the duties laid down by the resolution—namely to investigate

- "1. The extent, character, and objects of un-American propoganda activities in the United States,
- 2. The diffusion within the United States of subversive and un-American propoganda that is instigated from foreign countries or of a domestic origin and attacks the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our constitution, and
- 3. All other questions in relation thereto that would aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation."

Through his Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Rep. Martin Dies has abused the prestige of the Congress of the United States. His activities which have aided the Axis in their war on democracy are a matter of record. He has sought to disrupt national unity in the war effort by attacking vital administration leaders, agencies and policies, and by proposing dangerous and unconstitutional amendments to measures designed to strengthen our war effort. He has consistently shielded Axis sympathizers—native and foreign—and promoted disunity in the midst of the most perilous emergency ever to confront the American people. These activities he wishes to continue by passage of H. Res. 420.

The record of the Dies Committee discloses that the Committee and its Chairman have:

- 1. Criticized the war effort since Dec. 7, 1941, and American foreign policy prior to Pearl Harbor in terms calculated to impede that effort and to obstruct the defeat of the Axis by the United Nations.

*(The present members of the Committee are:*

*(1) Originally published February 9, 1942 as a "Memorandum To . . ." WFLC Memo No. 1*

*Refer to 54th Congress with preceding letter*

2. Failed to weed out the elements and organizations in our country most dangerous to our democratic existence—organizations such as the Christian Front, the Ku Klux Klan, and groups formed at the instigation of the Nazi Government.
3. Given aid and comfort to such notoriously un-American "fuehrers" as Joseph A. McWilliams, Father Coughlin, James Wheeler-Hill, James A. True, Gerald L. K. Smith, Gerald L. Winrod, Edward James Smythe, and many others who have never been called before the Committee.
4. Repeatedly attempted to undermine the confidence of the American people in their government by conducting a campaign of "unvarnished smear" against key Administration agencies, and by publicizing unsubstantiated allegations concerning the loyalty of large numbers of Federal employees.
5. Cloaked their defense of un-American leaders like George Deatherage, Gerald B. Winrod, William Dudley Pelley, and others in a broadside attack on organized labor, consumer, and professional organizations.

Because of its program the Dies Committee has won the support and public approval of both domestic and foreign Nazi-Fascist groups.

In December, 1939, Fritz Kuhn, now serving a jail sentence for embezzlement, but then leader of the German-American Bund, told a New York reporter

"I am in favor of it (the Dies Committee) to be appointed again and I wish them to get more money:"  
(*New York World Telegram*, Dec. 8, 1939)

William Dudley Pelley, Silver Shirt leader and professed anti-Semite, told the Dies Committee

"I founded the Silver Legion in 1933 . . . to propagandize exactly the same principles that Mr. Dies and this committee are engaged in prosecuting right now . . ." (*Hearings of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities* henceforth cited as *Hearings*, February 7, 1940, pp. 7207-7208)

and further

"I subscribe to that so completely . . . with the work which has been done by 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." (*Hearings*, Feb. 8, 1940, p. 7247)

Strangely enough, the Dies Committee, in its report to the House on January 3, 1941, boastfully announced

"Immediately after Pelley was placed on the stand before our committee, he ordered the dissolution of his silver-shirted band." (*Report No. 1, House of Representatives, 77 Cong., 1 Sess. January 3, 1941*)

On January 20, 1942, William Dudley Pelley was sentenced to serve two to three years in prison for violation of the North Carolina Security Laws, and will also serve a sentence for an original conviction in 1935.

At the hearing, in Superior Court in Asheville, N. C., "correspondence between Pelley Publishers and alleged Nazi and Fascist agencies and individuals in Germany, Italy and England was introduced. Pelley was head of Pelley Publishers." (*New York Times*, January 21, 1942)

Pelley's activities have been so notorious, that the *New York Times*, in supplying background information on Pelley said,

"He (Pelley) said that he had been 'inspired' to organize the movement (Silver Shirts of America) by the rise to power of Adolph Hitler in Germany. He published a magazine that was considered a receptacle for Nazi propaganda." (*Ibid*)

Late in 1940 the Ku Klux Klan of Oklahoma City issued a pamphlet, "The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan Carries On to Put None But Americans on Guard." The pamphlet was devoted to praising Martin Dies and the Dies Committee.

Dudley Pierrepont Gilbert, head of the American Nationalists, Inc., testifying before the Committee in May, 1939, described the reasons why his organization was formed, saying

"You remember that in those days there was no committee such as yours in existence, and we were trying to get publicity for what you have gotten now." (*Hearings*, Vol. 5, p. 3185)

Similarly, George E. Deatherage, leader of the Knights of the White Camellia, an organization known for its blatant anti-Semitism, said

"Every time . . . I am called before the Dies Committee, that is the best publicity I can get, and then my mail just buries me." (*Hearings*, Vol. 5, p. 3536)

## THE AXIS NEEDS THE DIES COMMITTEE—WE DON'T

Martin Dies is the prodigal Congressman in the eyes of the Axis.

For many months the short wave monitoring service of the Federal Communications Commission has been recording and analyzing all broadcasts emanating from Axis dominated countries. The Birmingham (Ala.) *Age-Herald* reported recently

"The man most frequently and approvingly quoted (on Nazi propaganda broadcasts) is a man who has made much of the word 'American' . . . He is the most popular American as far as the Rome-Berlin radios are concerned . . .

"His name is Martin Dies . . .

"In all their quotations from Mr. Dies, no one has heard a single criticism of him by the Axis radio." (*Birmingham Age-Herald*, December 24, 1941, p. 4)

A similar story appeared in the weekly magazine *Newsweek*, saying

"The FCC's short-wave monitoring service has found that Representative Martin Dies is the American most frequently quoted by the Axis radio in programs beamed to this hemisphere." (*Newsweek*, January 5, 1942, p. 7)

It is not surprising that the Axis can find no fault with one of their best friends in American public life. The man who has condoned and fostered anti-Semitic statements before a Congressional Committee, who has shielded and protected the real leaders of the Nazi-inspired American fascist movement while ostensibly "going after the small fry," well deserves the applause of Berlin and Rome, and even of Tokyo.

But we are at war with the governments of those countries, and we must look with suspicion on those who receive Nazi, Fascist and Japanese approbation.

## DIES ATTACKS THE WAR POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

The Congress of the United States has repeatedly emphasized, by legislation, its support of our Government's official war policy. That policy prior to December 7, 1941, called for lend-lease aid to nations fighting Hitlerism. That policy since our involvement in the war has been one of military collaboration, and of unity to victory against the German-Italian-Japanese aggressors.

Martin Dies has consistently voiced opposition to American foreign policy, attacked action previously taken by the Congress of the United States, and consciously attempted to undermine the developing unity of the people of the United States behind that policy.

His most carping criticism has been directed towards Russia, with which the United States has been collaborating since the invasion of that country by Germany.

In October, 1941, the United States was extending economic aid to Russia, Great Britain, and the other nations defending themselves against the Axis. Yet Martin Dies, speaking in Cleveland in October, 1941, said:

"I am as anxious as anyone to see the defeat of Hitler, and I hope Russia is licked at the same time."  
(Speech before the American Institute of Laundering Convention, October 19, 1941, reported in *Cleveland Plain-Dealer*, October 20, 1941.)

In this same speech Dies also pointed out that the Dies Committee couldn't "pay attention to the Administration's somersaults in foreign policy." (*Ibid*)

### DIES HAS CURIOUS BLIND SPOTS

Martin Dies, consciously, or through curious negligence, missed one of the biggest stories of 1941—the story of the concentrated barrage of pro-Axis literature inserted in the *Congressional Record*, printed by the Government Printing Office, and mailed, by the hundred thousand, in franked envelopes, at the instigation of admitted Axis propagandists.

On October 24, 1941, George Hill, secretary to Rep. Hamilton Fish, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury of the District Court of the District of Columbia, charged with two counts of perjury. The indictment alleged that Hill had willfully perjured himself concerning his relationship with registered German agent, George Sylvester Viereck, and concerning his dealings with the sacks of franked mail which were taken from the office of Prescott Dennett to the House Office Building and stored in Rep. Fish's storage space.

On January 15, 1942, following a trial in the District Court, George Hill was convicted on both counts, and is now awaiting sentence. In summing up the case for the prosecution, the Government stated

"The defendant Hill is an important cog in the most vicious propaganda machine, the most effective propaganda machine that this world has ever seen, so effective and so diabolically clever that it is able to reach in and use the halls of our own Congress as a sounding board for its lies and half truths, by which they are trying to defeat and conquer us just as they defeated and conquered France, Belgium, Holland, Poland and all those other nations in Europe . . .

"That is why this defendant Hill went before the Grand Jury and swore falsely . . .

"That is why his lips were sealed as to the truth and it was the long arm of the Gestapo that forced him to go in there and put those lies in his mouth to try to stop this investigation and to impede it in every possible way." (*Trial Transcript*, p. 850)

*U.S. v. George Hill*

When the Dies Committee reported to the House on January 3, 1941, Dies said "we smashed the Nazi movement before it was able to get under way." But during 1941, Dies succeeded in ignoring the new methods of American Bundists.

A New York trade magazine reported recently

"On June 20th (1941) the Government of the United States ordered the closing (in early July) of the German Library of Information, the German Railroads Information Office and German consulates.

"It should be noted here that several months before this closing order, German agents in New York City bragged to contacts of ours that they knew they were going to be closed up but it didn't make any difference because they had made plans to have their work carried on by American agencies and that most of the propaganda would be mailed free under the Congressional frank." (*The Reporter of Direct Mail Advertising*, December, 1941)

The scandal that surrounded the use of Congressional facilities for the dissemination of Axis propaganda in the fall of 1941 aroused nationwide interest—but the Dies Committee, and its Chairman, continued to seek ways and means of disuniting the American people, and ignored the clamor.

This was completely in keeping with the Committee's past record.

The Dies Committee also failed to investigate or expose the new techniques being used by the Nazis to spread their poisonous politics in the United States, new techniques necessitated by the closing of their official consulates and propaganda centers.

In October, 1941, George Sylvester Viereck, registered German propaganda agent, was indicted by the District of Columbia Federal Grand Jury, charged with failure to comply with the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Long years ago, when the Dies Committee was young, Dies revealed that he considered Viereck one of the major cogs in the Nazi propaganda machine in the United States. On August 4, 1938, Dies subpoenaed Viereck, who was planning to sail that night for Europe on a visit to the ex-Kaiser, and, according to Dies, to Hitler. (*New York Times*, August 4, 1938.)

Viereck told the press that he would gladly appear before the Dies Committee following his return from Europe in October, 1938.

But the record of the Dies Committee does not indicate that Viereck was ever called back, although according to the *New York Times* he had admittedly been paid \$1750 monthly in 1934, by Carl Byoir and Associates, to do pro-German publicity in accordance with arrangements made by the German Ministry of Propaganda. (*New York Times*, August 4, 1938.)

Viereck made his trip to Europe, and returned saying "I was in Germany and Italy in the most critical days and discovered that the Rome-Berlin Axis was the backbone of world peace." (*PM*, October 9, 1941, quoting a statement of Viereck in 1938.)

The Dies Committee has boasted that it exposed Nazi agents, but it ignored one of the most important, George Sylvester Viereck, author, propagandist, and indicted foreign agent.

One of these new techniques utilized to spread Axis propaganda was exposed by the American Legion of California in a report on Nazi penetration of the America First Committee. The Legion found, for example, that

"Herman Max Schwinn, West Coast Bund Fuehrer, has openly cooperated and aided in the operation of the America First-sponsored picket line at the Hollywood Bowl when Wendell Willkie spoke in behalf of National Unity, on July 23, 1941. Schwinn did not carry a banner or poster, but devoted his time to encouraging pickets and otherwise assisting F. K. Ferenz." (*Subversive Activities in America First Committee in California*, published by Americanism Committee, 17th District, The American Legion, Department of California, October, 1941, p. 14.)

The Legion described F. K. Ferenz as "distributor of subversive books, Hitler essayist and Nazi film exhibitor, . . . one of the most active workers in the America First movement in California." (*Ibid.*) Its report documented the activities, in America First Committee of California, of many notorious Bundists.

(1) converted 1941, Viereck's non-reply<sup>5</sup> - sentence in July 1942 he was  
reside in

Laura Ingalls, aviatrix who barnstormed the country on the America First bandwagon during the summer and fall of 1941, was also indicted in December, 1941, for failure to register as a German foreign agent.

Laura Ingalls, the Bundists exposed by the American Legion in Los Angeles, and many other spokesmen for the America First movement, were not called to testify before the Dies Committee, nor did Dies even announce that he would investigate Bund activities in America First until a few days before our entry into the war. ( )

Similarly, Dies, for all his charges that he "had previous information" of the contemplated Japanese military attack on Pearl Harbor, apparently either did not have, or suppressed, information concerning the Japanese campaign of psychological warfare against the American people. For on January 28, 1942, the same Federal Grand Jury which had indicted Hill and Viereck, which had indicted Frank Burch, Nazi agent who pleaded guilty in October, 1941, indicted six men as unregistered Japanese propagandists. And as a consequence of that indictment, Ralph Townsend, staff member of the America First organ, *Scribner's Commentator*, David Warren Ryder and Frederick Vincent Williams, San Francisco publicity men, and three Japanese will soon stand trial in the District Court, only a few blocks from Dies' office.

The ramifications of the conspiracy of Axis powers to undermine the morale of the American people during the year 1941 is still to be wholly exposed. But the Dies Committee showed itself to be criminally negligent—it did not even attempt to enlighten the people of the United States to the meaning of the propaganda campaign to which they were being exposed.

Martin Dies missed the boat in 1941. Not because the facts were not available, not because there were no straws in the wind that blows over the Capitol, but because he did not want to open up an investigation of Axis propaganda, for fear of the consequences.

Martin Dies did not dare investigate Axis propaganda in the United States in 1941—just as he did not dare investigate it in past years. Behind a smokescreen of talk and charges and allegations, he continued in 1941 as he had in the past to shield and protect his friends and supporters, the thoroughly un-American pro-Axis organizers and propagandists in our Nation.

**DIES UNDERMINES PUBLIC CONFIDENCE BY UNSUBSTANTIATED ATTACKS ON FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

(T)

The Federal Government is the nerve center of our war program. Its employees are the backbone of a nation at war.

Throughout a thousand cities and towns in America, industrial workers are building the armaments of war, manufacturing the goods necessary to keep our armed forces and our civilian population housed, and clothed, and fed, that they may better do their part in the War.

(N)

In Washington, more than 170,000 Federal employees are doing their part, working longer hours, accepting many inconveniences, continuing to uphold the high traditions of loyalty and service for which they are known, and hundreds of thousands more are carrying on these traditions in the field.

Notwithstanding this fact, Rep. Dies, as Chairman of a Special Committee of the House, has used the prestige of Congress to publicize slanderous statements concerning Federal employees, and to utilize his statements as a further means of attacking our national policies.

(1) Connected spot

1942 failure to register as agent of a foreign

"No price fixing bill will be of any substantial help in preventing inflation until we drastically reduce nondefense expenditures, increase the revenues of the Government, eliminate the scandalous waste in defense and nondefense expenditures . . ." (Congressional Record, November 28, 1941, pp. 9439-40)

The tactics being used by Dies were clear. The *New York Post* commented editorially

"We try to keep track of Rep. Martin Dies and his projects, but he moves too fast. After Dies wrote to the President and offered to prove that 54 members of the staff of OPACS (including Leon Henderson) were semi-Communists, we waited for the Congressman to produce his evidence. There wasn't a further sound, no documents, no letters, no testimony—just the plain unvarnished smear." (New York Post, September 24, 1941)

And smear it was—or an attempted smear—not alone of Mr. Henderson and his employees, not alone of price control as subsequently passed by the Congress and the work of OPACS, but a smear of the defense program which was part and parcel of Dies' continued oral and written assault on the foreign policy of the United States as laid down by the Congress and administered by the President.

### DIES IS THE FRIEND, PROTECTOR AND HERO OF AMERICAN NAZI-FASCISTS

On December 8, 1938, Dies was guest of honor at a luncheon in New York sponsored by Merwin K. Hart, President of the New York State Economic Council, which was also attended by Bund-leader Fritz Kuhn, Bund-secretary James Wheeler-Hill and others. (New York Times, December 9, 1938)

Only four days previously, on December 4, 1938, Dies had been the luncheon guest of the American Defense Society in New York City. The president of the Society is Robert Appleton, friend and financial supporter of Christian Mobilizer Joseph McWilliams. (New York Post, November 30, 1939)

On January 27, 1939, Dies and Hart were the chief speakers at a meeting of the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies, held at the Carlton Hotel in Washington. The Coalition is an anti-Semitic organization headed by John Trevor, socialite, millionaire and gentleman fascist, and by James True, publisher of the notorious Industrial Control Reports.

On November 29, 1939, Dies was the principal speaker at the Mass Meeting for America held in Madison Square Garden. Merwin K. Hart presided, and one of the other speakers was Col. George U. Harvey, a staunch defender of Christian Fronters and borough president of Queens until his defeat in the 1941 elections

The sponsors of the rally included:

Robert Appleton, President of the American Defense Society

Mrs. Grace L. H. Brosseau, Member of the Board of Governors of the Coughlinitic Emergency Council to keep America Out of Foreign Wars

Mrs. Ralph M. Easley, widow of the late Ralph M. Easley, guiding figure in the National Civic Federation

Ogden H. Hammond, decorated by Franco

Robert K. Harriss, Coughlin's broker

John Snow, of the League for Constitutional Government, which distributes the anti-Semitic literature of Harry A. Jung, and a member of the Paul Reveres

John B. Trevor, gentleman fascist, and representative of the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies

Social Justice was sold throughout the Garden meeting, and Christian Fronters received free tickets to hear the gospel from the House's own "un-American", Martin Dies.

## WHY DIDN'T DIES INVESTIGATE PRO-NAZI EDWARD JAMES SMYTHE?

On August 24, 1938, the Dies Committee received in evidence a letter from Edward J. Smythe, head of the Protestant War Veterans, correspondent of Gerald B. Winrod, George Deatherage, James True, William Dudley Pelley, and Nazi Agent James Wheeler-Hill, speaker at Bund meetings, model of the fascist pattern, which said

"Now, the Jews are our greatest menace at this time and they should and will be driven out of our political and economic life, otherwise we are doomed . . ." (Hearings, August 24, 1938, p. 2381)

On October 6, 1938, Arnold Gingrich, then editor of the magazine *Ken*, presented the Dies Committee with a letter written by Smythe to Nazi agent Ernst Goerner of Milwaukee, in which Smythe proclaimed

"I don't associate with Jews whether those Jews be Christianized, modernized, or just plain international revolutionary Jews, whether they have changed their names and religious (*sic*) that means nothing to me . . . I look upon a Jew as the *born enemy of the Christian race, a parasite of the human family.*" (Hearings, p. 1234; italics in printed record)

Almost a year later, on August 29, 1939, Smythe was called to testify before the Dies Committee. Although a subpoena had been issued for him, he did not appear. But no action was taken against him.

Dies suppressed Smythe's correspondence and files which had been subpoenaed from the office of Donald Shea, head of the National Gentile League, after a colloquy with the Committee counsel.

In that discussion Dies showed a spirit of kindness toward the persons incriminated by the files, which he reserves for those of Axis leanings. He said

"There are a great many letters here, including letters from prominent people. We ought to determine which ones we shall make public . . . 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. . . . We can make this correspondence public at a later date." (Hearings, August 29, 1939, p. 4274)

The correspondence has never been published.

## THE STRANGE CASE OF GERALD L. WINROD

The name of Gerald L. Winrod appears in volume after volume of the Dies Committee hearings. He is mentioned as a correspondent of Edward J. Smythe. He has become notorious as the publisher of anti-Semitic literature. He is reliably reported to have visited Germany in the summer of 1934 and to have returned with large sums of money. He has repeatedly praised Hitler and the German Government, but Gerald L. Winrod has never been investigated by the Dies Committee, and his strange case is one of many which reveal Dies' susceptibility to pressure and his reluctance to investigate or expose pro-Axis forces in the United States.

On November 19, 1938, Dies Committee Investigator John Metcalfe presented some material dealing with Winrod to a committee hearing. The Chairman, Dies, then stated that he had

"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." (Hearings, Vol. , p. )

Investigator Metcalfe:



"You will notice that he is also recommended by the swastika-bearing publications."  
Chairman Dies:

"But you cannot always go by that." (<sup>Ibid.</sup> ~~Hearings~~, p. 2373)

Recurring to the case of Winrod, Dies later said

"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." (<sup>Ibid.</sup> ~~Hearings~~, p. 2375)

Dies has not always been so considerate of people accused before the Committee without evidence, but in this case there was evidence aplenty to substantiate Mr. Metcalfe's charges.

World Service, Erfurt, Germany, is the guiding center of Nazi propaganda in foreign countries. On May 25, 1939, a letter from the American Section, in answer to a request for information, advised the inquirer to "try to get some enlightening American news and papers, such as *Social Justice* by Father Coughlin, *Defender* by Rev. Winrod, *Kansas*, and others. This was an apparently surprising tribute, but the facts reveal that Winrod played an important part in the Nazi propaganda machine.

A poor "minister" before he visited Germany in 1934, he returned in 1935 to establish himself as editor of *The Revealer*. In the issue of February 15, 1935, Winrod described his trip to Germany saying that "Jewish influence in high circles of certain governments is making it impossible for Germany to carry on normal trade and financial relations with other countries." (Quoted in John L. Spivak's *Secret Armies*, p. 104)

## OBSERVERS IN THE CAPITOL SAID TODAY—

This familiar phrase might well be used to introduce the comments of Capitol reporters, who in their own way have evaluated the work of the Dies Committee.

Leon Pearson, newspaperman and radio commentator, speaking over radio station WOL in Washington, D. C. on July 1, 1941, described Dies' many wild charges saying

"and when he (J. Edgar Hoover) hears Dies making random charges of sabotage . . . he looks to Dies for the specific facts, and action to support the charges, but he looks in vain." (*Washington Times-Herald*, July 2, 1941)

The *Washington Post*, noting that in his open letter to the President attacking OPACS and Leon Henderson, Dies had also attacked United States cooperation with Russia, commented tersely

"If Mr. Dies intends to smear every public official who has cooperated with Communists for any purpose, he ought to start with President Roosevelt and his Cabinet, who are aiding the Moscow dictatorship in its struggle to resist German aggression." (*Washington Post*, September 9, 1941)

The *New York Post's* succinct description of the Henderson hounding carried on by Dies—"no documents, no letter, no testimony—just the plain, unvarnished smear"—is equally applicable to almost all of the activity of the Dies Committee.

The question of Dies' undependability, of his support of un-American elements, was important in time of peace—but in time of war it is critical. Recognizing that the work of the Committee threatens American unity behind the war, the New York newspaper *PM* opposes the resolution for extension of the Committee's life, saying

"Remembering that Dies has on previous occasions promised to investigate Fascist organizations but has then devoted most of his time and energy to leftist groups and liberals, some of his colleagues are determined to find out this time just what his Committee will do if it is permitted to continue. They are not favorably impressed by his recent campaign against Price Administrator Henderson. Dies's denunciation of Henderson as a member of left-wing organizations were widely quoted in short wave broadcasts from Germany. (Underlining supplied)

"They point out that while Dies and his associates have been harassing Henderson and other Administration employes, such publications as Social Justice, the mouthpiece of Father Coughlin have been permitted to continue their anti-Semitic, anti-democratic campaigns unmolested." (PM, Jan. 27, 1942)

## "I TOLD YOU SO," SAYS DIES—BUT THE FACTS ARE DIFFERENT

Martin Dies has attempted, for several years, to capitalize on the hatred of the American people for fascism, foreign and domestic, in all of its manifestations. He has attempted to exploit the democratic sentiments of the American people and of the Members of Congress for the purpose of extending the life of the Dies Committee. And when he has been successful, the record discloses that the Committee to investigate un-American activities has, through its Chairman, neither investigated nor exposed them.

On January 23, 1942, Dies charged, before the House of Representatives, that

"A fear of displeasing foreign powers and a maudlin attitude toward fifth columnists was largely responsible for the unparalleled tragedy at Pearl Harbor." (Congressional Record, January 28, 1942, p. 828)

In his speech, Dies sought to give the impression that his Committee had been vigilant against the fascist fifth column, and that he himself had supported measures which would have strengthened the position of the United States prior to December 7.

The reverse is true.

Look at the record of the Dies Committee in relation to the German-American Bund, and its cooperating organizations.

Fritz Kuhn, then fuehrer of the Bund, told the Dies Committee in August 1938 that the Bund cooperated with Coughlin's *Social Justice*, the Christian Front, the Christian Mobilizers, the Christian Crusaders and other groups. He defined what he meant—

"By cooperating I mean that we go to their meetings and they come to our meetings." (Hearings, Vol. 1, p. 3766)

The Dies Committee has meticulously avoided investigating these organizations—and Dies himself has appeared on platforms with their spokesmen.

Yet in his report to the House of Representatives on January 3, 1941, Dies triumphantly wrote

"When we began our work, the Bund and a score of Nazi-minded groups were laying plans for an impressive united front federation—a federation which would be able to launch a first-rate Nazi movement in the United States. By our exposure of these plans we smashed that Nazi movement before it was able to get under way." (Report No. 1, 77 Cong., 1 session, January 3, 1941.)

Dies did not smash the Bund nor did he investigate many of its activities. The Bund paper *The Free American and Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter* continued publication until after the United States entered the war. Dozens of Bund leaders were arrested by the FBI following Dec. 7, 1941. And in 1941 many bundists

found shelter under the broad wings of the America First Committee, an organization totally disregarded by Mr. Dies until a few days before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Dies did not investigate Axis activities in America First, but the American Legion of California did. In a carefully documented "White Paper," the 17th Department of the Legion, in Southern California, declared in 1941

"In identifying subversive channels in California—channels which later will be shown to flow directly into the America First Committee—consideration must be given to the fact that pro-Nazi individuals and groups no longer openly show their sympathies and their connections. . . .

"The American Legion Committee finds that in meetings of America First, processes are at work whereby a person attending merely to seek information, may unwittingly be transformed into a Nazi sympathizer, and even into a potential traitor to his country." (*Subversive Activities in America First Committee in California* published by Americanism Committee, 17th District, The American Legion, Department of California, October, 1941, pp. 5 and 19)

Fritz Kuhn told the Dies Committee that he cooperated with Coughlinite organizations—but none of them have been challenged by Representative Dies.

Father Coughlin's weekly, *Social Justice*, stated on April 3, 1939

"it should never be forgotten that the Rome-Berlin axis is the great political rampart against the spread of Communism. As such, the Rome-Berlin axis is serving Christendom in a peculiarly important matter." (*Social Justice*, April 3, 1939)

On July 7, 1941, Father Coughlin praised Hitler's attack on our present ally, Russia, saying

"Hitler has been opposed to the international godless Jew from the beginning. And from the beginning of this conflict, the international godless Jew dominated Soviet Russia, Britain and the United States. . . . It is true that Hitler has persecuted Jews and Christians. Yet he has killed none; he has not banned religion. . . . Aside from the military aspects involved in the Russo-German war, Hitler has won a great victory in the minds of Christians throughout the world. . . ." (*Social Justice*, July 7, 1941)

And still later in the year he added "We loathe the fact that our government and our people are compelled to fight side by side with so-called 'Russia' against Nazi Germany." But even this bluntly treasonous statement was insufficient to suggest to Representative Dies the necessity of investigating the un-American activities of Father Coughlin.

Coughlin, like Dies, has received only praise at the hands of the Axis. Just as the Berlin radio praised Dies in 1941, so the press of Berlin was full of praise for Father Coughlin in 1938. The Berlin correspondent of the *New York Times* wrote

"The German hero in America . . . is the Reverend Charles E. Coughlin." (Otto D. Tolischus dispatch from Berlin, *New York Times*, November 27, 1938)

And the German press in America repeated this praise.

"Earsplitting applause greeted every mention of Father Coughlin's name" at a Madison Square Garden meeting, according to the February 23, 1939, issue of the *Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter* and *The Free American*, described on its face as the official organ of the German-American Bund and the German-American Business League, Inc.

Coughlin's private paper, *Social Justice*, has devoted column after column to praise of American fascists. He publicly welcomed the support of Edward James Smythe on February 20, 1939, and repeatedly thereafter.

note last Pearl Harbor  
Coughlin Report

He used the columns of *Social Justice* (April 10, 1939) to urge support for H. D. Kissenger's *National American*, a newspaper which formerly bore the swastika on its masthead, and has been consistently anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic. Kissenger, its editor, has distributed Nazi propoganda in the Middle West and has written for the *Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter*.

Perhaps Coughlin, Smythe, Kissenger and the other anti-democratic fuehrers who cluster around Coughlin are not un-American in the eyes of Congressman Dies.

Perhaps the Christian Front, the Christian Mobilizers, and the many similar organizations preaching race hatred, spreading intolerance, and supporting the doctrines of Hitler, seem thoroughly "patriotic" to Representative Dies, but in the eyes of millions of Americans they represent the essence of un-Americanism. And the failure of the Dies Committee to investigate and expose them is construed, with cause, as evidence of Dies' belief in and support of their tactics and ideas.

On January 26, 1942, three days after he had asked that the life of his committee be extended to January 1943, Representative Dies announced that he would shortly "expose" the activities of the Ku Klux Klan.

The amazing resurgence of the Klan in 1940 and 1941 had alarmed outstanding citizens and newspapers in many sections of the country, and Dies in his annual attempt to gain time by jumping on the bandwagon, was eager to capitalize on that alarm. The press reported

"Mr. Colescott, the chairman (Rep. Dies) explained, was not subpoenaed, but volunteered to come before the committee." (*Washington Star*, January 26, 1942)

The question is obvious. Why did the Dies Committee fail to subpoena Imperial Wizard Colescott in 1938, in 1939, in 1940, in 1941? Why did it wait for him to "volunteer" to testify in 1942? Why has Dies continually shielded the Ku Klux Klan?

In the year 1941 the Klan reprinted thousands of copies of anti-Semitic literature, and carried on a treacherous program aimed at disrupting the production of armaments and defense goods in some of the major industrial areas of the United States.

But Martin Dies, the man who on November 21, 1938, disclaimed the necessity of going into the Klan because it "has been gone into in days gone by" (*Hearings*, p. 2376) refused to concede that the Klan should be investigated.

Did the praise that Dies received from the Klansmen of Oklahoma City in 1940 have anything to do with his reluctance to investigate this powerful secret organization? Will the true story of the Klan ever be told? The past record of the Dies Committee makes it clear that the committee will continue to suppress information concerning organizations of a truly subversive nature like the Klan.

## THE DIES COMMITTEE MUST BE DISCONTINUED TO PROTECT AMERICA AT WAR

It is true that the Dies Committee has made a record, as the Chairman points out on every possible occasion. But it is not a record of which the United States can be proud.

The Dies Committee, as this record proves, has exploited the prestige of the United States Congress by offering "aid and comfort" to the American agents of fascist powers.

The Dies Committee has become a convenient vehicle for the widespread publicizing of anti-American organizations.

not to be deleted

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The Dies Committee has given only lipservice to the cause for which it was created—the investigation of forces undermining the American Constitution and the basic Constitutional rights of freedom of speech, religion, press and assembly.

Its record, its actions, besmirch the dignity of the Congress of the United States. The Dies Committee has fostered hatred, it has created disunity among the American people, and it has, by its activities, severely threatened the Constitutional rights it was sworn to protect.

On January 6, 1941, Franklin Delano Roosevelt told the Congress of the United States that "we look forward to a world founded upon the four essential freedoms"—freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

On December 11, 1941, with America already at war with Japan, the President requested Congress to recognize a state of war between the United States and Germany and Italy. In his message he said:

"The long known and the long expected has taken place. The forces endeavoring to enslave the entire world now are moving toward this hemisphere.

"Never before has there been a greater challenge to life, liberty and civilization.

"Delay invites greater danger. Rapid and united effort by all of the peoples of the world who are determined to remain free will ensure a world victory of the forces of justice and righteousness over the forces of savagery and of barbarism."

On December 15, 1941, the President stated

"We will not, under any threat, or in the face of any danger, surrender the guarantees of liberty our forefathers framed for us in the Bill of Rights.

"We covenant with each other before all the world, that having taken up arms in the defense of liberty, we will not lay them down before liberty is once again secure in the world we live in. For that security we pray; for that security we act—now and forevermore."

The National Federation for Constitutional Liberties applauds the statements of the President of the United States and views with pride the inspiring unity of the American people in this war for freedom and liberty.

In a statement on "Civil Liberties and the Anti-Axis War," the NFCL said:

"Because we in America are free, we can wage this war with the vigor and will that belong to a people who know the value of freedom. So long as the war is a war of free men against tyranny, by its very nature it proclaims the fundamental rights of those who carry on the fight with guns or at the bench or behind the plow. These rights will be reaffirmed and strengthened by victory in the war being waged against tyrannical aggressors. They will be lost if the war is lost through failure to mobilize the American people in a drive which gets its force from a clear understanding of the whys and wherefores of fascism. To this truth the people of every fascist dominated country can bear tragic witness.

"Ours is now the job of turning the strength which comes with freedom, towards victory. Ours is now the job of fighting for civil liberties on a vaster scale than we ever conceived—for the preservation of our own liberties and their extension to all peoples now shackled by the brutalities of fascism."

The people of the United States are united.

They must remain united to defeat the Axis aggressors.

Because the Dies Committee threatens national unity and endangers the great struggle in which our country is now engaged, it should be discontinued.

Prepared by

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