

Hand of Enemy Seen: T-H 6-24-43

Detroit Rioting Laid to Japs; Dies Promises Exposures

Probe Here Will Reveal Work of Tokyo; Ickes' Servants Involved in Inquiry

By WILLARD EDWARDS

Revealing that the Detroit race riots with their death toll of 29 have been traced to racial animosities stirred up by Japanese agents, Representative Martin Dies (D.), of

Texas, chairman of the House Committee on un-American Activities, announced yesterday that open hearings would be held here next week into the entire explosive issue of Nipponese activities in America.

Other Agents at Work

The committee's inquiry will be directed specifically at Detroit's racial disorders, Dies said. He is already in possession of reports from investigators, submitted before the rioting started, which disclosed underground plotting, he said, of Japanese espionage agents' attempts to incite Negroes against whites in America's great war industrial center.

Dies referred also to a recent re-

Committee named to investigate Detroit riots, on Page 6.

port from an investigator in the Detroit area which stated that both Japanese agents and other foreign agents conspired to stir up racial troubles there.

Active Organizer Interned

One Major Takahashi, named as the chief agent, is now in an internment camp. He was active in organizing the National Workers' League, a Communist front organization and recruited 1,500 Negro workers, the report revealed. The Ku Klux Klan also was involved, Dies said.

While there is yet no direct evi-

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Detroit Rioting Linked to Jap Spies by Dies

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dence that Japanese released since Pearl Harbor from relocation centers had a part in inciting the Detroit riots, Dies remarked, the hearings would disclose "propagandizing and other subversive activities" on the part of Japs freed by the War Relocation Authority.

U. S. Aides to Be Called

Dies, back in Washington after an absence of several weeks, said the committee would summon officials of the War Relocation Authority, and of War and Justice Departments, for questioning on evidence seized in a raid upon headquarters of the Japanese-American Citizens' League in the 1300 Block Fourteenth St. NW. on June 11.

Dillon S. Myer, director of the WRA, probably will be the first witness, Dies said.

The committee also will receive the report of a special subcommittee which has been holding hearings in California for the last three weeks. At these "lamentable" conditions in the relocation centers were exposed.

A mass of evidence taken from the Japanese-American Citizens'

League files tells a story of domination of WRA policies by Japanese in Washington, Dies said, and of their close contacts with Government officials in Justice and War Departments.

One of the prime objectives of the league, he said the evidence showed, was to bring about the release of all Japs from the relocation centers regardless of their loyalty or disloyalty to the United States.

The chairman read a letter, dated October 7, 1942, from a league official, Mike Masaoka, to national headquarters in Salt Lake City disclosing that Mrs. Harold L. Ickes, wife of the Secretary of the Interior, was anxious to employ Jap servants on the Ickes estate near Olney.

Care in Choice Urged

"Be sure and have Nisei (American-born Japs) selected carefully for these jobs," the letter read. "This is a fine chance to do real public relations work and to make important contacts."

The three Japanese, two young men and a young woman who were eventually employed by Ickes, probably will be summoned to testify at the hearings, Dies said. Investigators reported that they attended a meeting of the Japanese-American Citizens' League on May 22. The meeting broke up in a near riot.

In answer to a question, the chairman said he could see no reason at this time for asking Ickes to testify.

One of the phases of the WRA's supervision of evacuated Japanese, which will be thoroughly probed, Dies said, is the manner in which they are released for work in American homes and industries and farms.

The WRA insists that Japs were not released until an FBI check was made on them. Dies read a letter, marked "strictly off the record," found in the league files, which revealed that camp directors had been empowered to release Japs without an FBI clearance.

The committee has a list of 35 Japanese in Washington, 25 of whom are working in the WRA. Many of these probably will be questioned.