

# Winchell Used In 'Smear' Plot, Dies Charges

## Joins Broadcast To Assail 'Program Of Vilification'

(Texts on Page 3)

By International News Service

Representative Martin (D., Tex.), carried his long controversy with Walter Winchell to the radio last night with the assertion that the power behind "this program of vilification" will be investigated "thoroughly."

Dies, chairman of the Committee on Un-American Activities, followed Winchell on the air after Winchell stated that under the Bill of Rights he had the "right as a citizen" to criticize persons of high office if he thought there was occasion for it.

The combined broadcast was aired over the Blue Network under the direction of the Andrew Jergens Co., Winchell's sponsor.

### 'Aggressive Movement'

"Now I warn you," Dies asserted, "that there is in this country a carefully organized and integrated and dangerously intelligent and aggressive movement to undermine the authority and destroy the prestige of Congress in the interest of setting up an all-powerful central executive.

"Our committee has already exposed many of the persons and organizations who form this movement. In a short time we will expose many others and before we get through we are going to tell you the full story. We are going to find out and tell you who is supplying the brains and who is paying the bills.

### 'Winchell Being Used'

"These specialists in vilification would not dare charge reputable men with sedition. But they have found a means by which, through innuendo and indirection, they can select a victim and smear him with the odium of treason while skirting

See DIES, Page 3, Column 6.

# DIES

From Page 1.

the edge of libel laws.

"... Mr. Winchell is being used as a transmission belt to deliver into millions of ears damaging statements, half truths, cunningly slanted implications designed to impugn the loyalty and to destroy the characters of American public men who oppose the objectives of these groups and to break down confidence in the Congress of the United States."

Winchell made what he termed a newspaperman's declaration of independence.

He declared that the Constitution limits the powers of government and that the Bill of Rights protects the citizen who "disagrees with the men who run the very Government it establishes."

He added:

"The history of liberty is the history of resistance to irresponsible men who happen to be armed with the powers of government."

### Commentator's Challenge

Winchell said he was charged with "absolutely nothing" before American courts, adding:

"And no Congressman has yet elected to challenge me in any open

## THE WASHINGTON POST

\*\*\*\*x

Monday, March 27, 1944

3

American court—or to lay aside his immunity (long enough) so that I can challenge him there."

Winchell said he demanded only two rights, which are guaranteed to every American citizen:

"That I have the right of cross-examination," and "that the public be present."

"Far from retracting a single statement, I reiterate every one of them. Far from apologizing for any action, I reaffirm that my conduct has been the product of my deliberate intention," he emphasized.

### Derelict in His Duty

"In the meantime, if any Congressman or Senator has information or evidence that I am guilty of activities against the United States Government, let him run—not walk—to the nearest Federal grand jury or United States attorney. If he fails to do so he is derelict in his duty as an officer of the United States. If such evidence ever existed it would have been offered against me long before this."

Winchell declared that "I reserve the right—and I will continue to exercise the right to criticize any public official.

"That is the credo—without which a free press and a free radio cannot exist. That also is my credo. For it I have fought, and for it I will continue to fight."

### Won't Exchange Insults

Dies explained that he had asked for time on the air because of "certain false statements" made about him and the House Committee on Un-American Activities. He declared, however, that he did not "intend to exchange insults with Mr. Winchell."

He charged that Winchell was "ordered to stay on the radio to do what he is doing—to carry on the work of the smear bund to intimidate its opponents and to discredit the Congress."

He asked, "Who is this personage with so much power that he can reach into the Navy to keep Mr. Winchell on the air and off the sea for propaganda purposes...?"

He declared that "Congress will soon find out."

"This would be serious," he said, "if Mr. Winchell were the only Charlie McCarthy of the smear bund. He is, however, only one of many."