

March 14, 1940

Dear Cameron,

Enclosed is the Smith Committee memo which I promised you for tomorrow morning.

If everything goes well I'll have the Dies Committee memo in the mail late tomorrow night.

There are two things that I unfortunately omitted from this memo. These belong, respectively, on pages 6 and 12:

The campaign to amend the National Labor Relations Act during the last session of congress was unsuccessful largely because there was no public sentiment for this. One of the major purposes of the Smith committee is to destroy this public confidence in the act and the board.

Not only do Washington reporters receive, free and by mail by the following day, daily, printed transcripts of the Smith committee's hearings, but the committee goes to great pains and puts the government to considerable expense (franked mail is no cost to the committee but is to the Post office Department) in sending out these transcripts to 2,000 daily papers.

Beginning on page 8 are the quotations from the record you wanted. Numerous other quotes of this nature are available, but I believe these will be enough for your purposes. Let me know if you want more.

The Dies committee is still something close to me. Since I saw you I have been before them twice, and once it was a real third degree. Of course, they refuse to allow me to testify in public hearings. There have been so many conferences with the Department of Justice agents that I have lost track of them. Yesterday and today I appeared before the Grand Jury which has been convened without publicity. I hope that within a week or so there will be an indictment handed down, and I don't expect to be indicted. I am still under the subpoena of both the G.J. and the Dies committee. I believe that the Dies committee memo will contain more information than you can use, but if there are any things in it that you want enlarged upon, let me know.

I am leaving out the Mayne-entrapment story. However, I haven't had a chance to do anything long that line, as I told you I was going to, and, if you are interested in it, I can do it in a comparatively short length of time. Some new evidence of an entrapment, by the way, is contained in some of Pelley's recent public statements, which I have, and in a memo to Mayne, from his superior in Asheville, dated early in 1939, which gives him permission to accept an unspecified position with an unspecified committee. Most of this story has never been used. If you are not interested in it, have you any suggestions? I'd like to do something about it now, if I am going to in the near future, in order to get a news break on any indictments the Grand Jury may hand down. Everyone with whom I've spoken is confident that the G.J. will indict.

I have expected a letter from you all week re: the queries you said you had. Some good material is undoubtedly available, from what I have been able to discover in the few spare minutes I've had. Let me know if you still are interested and maybe I can do something.

I am pretty sure that I have an inside on that story, both in the Dept.
and on both sides on the Hill.

It would be helpful if you let me know what you want next and briefly
what you'd like to be able to show. Also, can I help you on pictures?

How did the magazine do, all in all? Well, I hope.

Harold

P.S. I hope you wont forget the check.

MEMORANDUM ON THE SPECIAL HOUSE COMMITTEE
INVESTIGATING UNAMERICAN ACTIVITIES.

One May morning in 1938 the telephone in the office of a labor official rang. On the other end of the line was a prominent southern congressman with news of the just-approved special committee to investigate unamerican activities.

The congressman wanted the labor official to know that he had been approached by Rep. Martin Dies (D, Tex.), slated to be chairman of the investigating committee, and asked to ~~accept appointment~~ become a member.

Dies told him, this congressman went on, that Garner and Pres. John P. Frey of the AFL metal trades department, and himself were furious over the failure of Congress to approve the resolution sponsored by Dies in the previous session condemning the auto workers for the sitdown strike in General Motors *and providing for an investigation*

The ~~congressman~~ congressman went on to say that Dies had assured him that his committee would do a thorough job on the CIO and that the sitdown resolution would be mild compared to what the ~~the~~ committee would do to the CIO.

The labor official's informant concluded by saying he had declined a place on the ~~committee~~ committee and that if labor, and the CIO in particular, was wise it would start its fight against the Dies committee immediately.

Evidence of the truth of the congressman's assertions was not long in forthcoming. Among the first witnesses was John Frey, a psychopathic red-baiter.

Frey presented the committee with a list of 284 CIO organizers ~~who~~ who, he said, were communists or communist sympathizers.

Also named ~~xxxx~~ were 60 CIO "leaders" who were communists or communist sympathizers.

Newspapers jumped at Frey's testimony. The New York Times of August 14, 1938 devoted 83 and one half column inches to Frey's testimony, 23 inches to denials which came from Philip Murray, president of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee(CIO), who termed part of Frey's testimony an "unmitigated lie". The World Telegram of August 17 ~~xxxx~~ spent one and one half ~~xxxx~~ inches on a UP story from Pittsburgh saying the SWOC announced that 21 of the 31 alleged communists on the SWOC payroll had never been on the SWOC payroll.

Later it was shown ^{much} ~~most~~ of Frey's supposedly confidential information came from The Chicago Tribune.

Despite Dies' frequent ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ announcements that persons accused before the committee would be given a chance to answer, nothing ever went into the record concerning the falsity of Frey's charges. Next morning, however, Frey shamefacedly admitted to newsmen that one of his "CIO communists" is president of the Utah state federation of labor(AFL). He insisted, however, that this man ~~xxxx~~ was a communist.

Frey was followed by a list of labor spies who told substantially the same story. Among the labor spies were William Gernaey, Jacob Spolansky, and William Nowell, ~~of~~ all of Detroit. Spolansky was an assistant to A.Mitchell Palmer, attorney general under Harding who conducted the notorious Palmer raids.

(That Dies makes use of labor spies was indicated in a statement made by him in Detroit in 1939 November to the effect that he had "informants" in labor unions with whom he was going to get in touch.)

First ~~public~~ public break in the Dies' committees front came when Edward F. Sullivan submitted a report on ~~xxxx~~ alleged

communist activities in "ollywood.

A brief submitted to Dies by Labor's Non-Partisan League charged Sullivan had been a highly-paid labor spy (Railway Audit & Inspection) an ~~associated~~ associate of the ~~well~~ notorious ~~antisemitic~~ anti-semitic James True and one of the ~~authors~~ authors (on the ~~payroll~~ payroll of the Republican National Committee) of anti-semitic leaflets directed at President Roosevelt, and an employe of a Ukranian fascist group.

Dies replied, (New York Times, August 27, 1938), ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ "Declaring that Mr. Sullivan had denied the league's charges, Mr. Dies asserted they were beside the point. He ~~xxx~~ accused the league of 'raising a smoke screen to cloud the real issue.'"

Substantially the same thing was said by Dies in his article for Liberty Magazine. It isn't so because Sullivan says it isn't so.

In February, 1939, the committee's life was extended for a year following a promise by Dies that by January, 1940 his committee's work would be over and that in the interval, the performance put on during the 1938 political campaign would not be repeated.

A parade of anti-semites and fascists followed each other across the witness stand when the committee resumed hearings ~~xxx~~ toward the end of ~~that session~~ the 1939 session of Congress. Committee members joined with the witnesses in attackings Jews and Jewry.

In the examination of Henry D. Allen, ~~Silver~~ west coast Silver Shirt, ~~xxx~~ Bundster, ~~ix~~ and reputed liason man between Nazis in Los Angeles and Mexican Gold Shirts, there appear 46 references to "Jew-Communists" and, on August ~~xxxx~~ ²³ (part 6/^{pp.4152} of the Dies record) Dies referred to ~~Jewry~~ Jewry as "another international." Not once were these witnesses rebuked.

For example, on August 22, 1939, (volume 6, p.4044) Allen was

talking about "Jews in the federal government are wrecking the country."

Mr. Mason (R, Ill.) - Are wrecking the country because you feel they are communistically ~~inclined~~ inclined?

Mr. Allen! Not necessarily, no.

Mr. Mason! But you feel that, regardless if they are communists or not, if they have an active part in the official life of the government they will wreck the government?

Mr. Allen! We can see in the Jews in the ~~present government~~ present government, in the Roosevelt administration, the carrying out of the protocol plan, if you ~~know~~ know what that is.

Mr. Mason! Of course, I have heard what that is, but I know personally many Jewish people not only in the federal government but in the local and state governments that make excellent officials and they are certainly not wrecking the government.

Mr. Allen! The exception proves the rule.

~~Dies~~ ^{The Chairman} That is a question that neither this committee nor any other committee can ever solve with respect to the Jewish race.

(Whereupon the committee adjourned to meet tomorrow, Wednesday August 23, 1939 at 10 a.m.)

On August 24, after Allen admitted he had been arrested on "some check charge", Rhea Whitley, committee counsel who ~~secretly~~ secretly ~~resigned~~ resigned (Cong. Record February 2, 1940), asked "Bogus check or because of insufficient funds?" Allen said it was "insufficient funds." When it was brought out, (pp. 4178 Dies record) that "insufficient funds" was a chronic affliction of Allen's, Dies asked the committee, "Do you think this is material?"

Rep. J. Parnell Thomas (R? N.J.) replied, "I do not think so" and the matter was dropped.

Each of the members had a copy of ~~Allen's~~ Allen's criminal record (p. 133 of Spivak's Secret Armies) showing he had used at least

sent by Walter Winchell

three aliases, that he was arrested on numerous occasions beginning on May 17, 1910 in Los Angeles, that he was a forger, and had been committed to Folsom and San Quentin ~~penitentiaries~~ penitentiaries.

~~Even more~~ Failure to mention this record may bob up to plague the committee later, particularly if the projected coalition of fascist groups takes place this summer.

~~Even~~ More brazen was the whitewash of George Deatherage, fuhrer of the Knights of the White Camelia. Without objection from members of the committee Deatherage refused to name any of his associates or tell anything about his organization.

Nor was Deatherage questioned about his elaborate "plan" for fascism in America, about which Allen was questioned (vol. 6, pp. 4009 ff.)

Wm. Dudley Pelley owes the biggest debt of ~~gratitude~~ gratitude to the Dies committee.

Until the ~~middle~~ middle of 1939 Pelley was kept out of the record. After a ~~collision~~ collision between ~~Pelley~~ ^{Dies} and George Van Horn Moseley Pelley began an attack on Dies in his ~~magazine~~ magazine, Liberation, and in pamphlets issued by Pelley Publishers.

In July, 1939, Dies sent ~~him~~ Robt. B. Barker, an agent of the committee, to investigate Pelley. On August 19, Whitley telegraphed Pelley he was wanted ^{for} questioning and asked him to come to Washington to accept service of a subpoena. Pelley "disappeared" although it is now known he was in the House office building a few days later. Whitley then began sending special ~~delivery~~ delivery letters to Pelley.

On August 29, Barker took the witness stand. Though he had spent 90 days investigating Pelley, he said, ~~nothing~~ nothing in his testimony was not a matter of public record, the work of two or three days in the Congressional Library.

Barker did have, ~~however~~ however, a 40 page list of Pelley's

correspondents, ~~including~~ ^{certain} including/members of congress, their secretaries and ~~xxx~~ Nazi agents. On four occasions Barker tried to place this list (prepared by the Post Office department) into the record but it was refused. The list is still kept a ^{committee} secret.

(When the Dies committee was accused by Pres. Roosevelt of "sordid procedure" in publishing the mailing list of the American League for Peace and Democracy, Washington branch, ^(radio speech Oct. 28, 1939) Dies retorted that no such charge was made "when the Silver Shirt list was spread upon the record." No such list has ever been placed in the record.)

The Barker ~~xxx~~ farce ended when Whitley attempted to show that Pelley printed material obtained from "Nazi" sources. This he did by reading an excerpt from ~~Libertain~~ Liberation dated July 8, 1933 which, he said, was a duplication of an "article which appeared in the Hammer press, Leipzig, Germany, in 1927." (Volu. 6, pp 4268-4269). It did not disturb the committee ~~xxx~~ when it was later pointed out that 1927 was somewhat earlier than the Nazis came into power in Germany.

After raiding the offices of the (Am.) League for Peace and ~~Dem~~ Democracy in Washington, on September 28, and a few days previously the ALPD offices in Chicago (see appendix for citations on this matter) Dies turned his attention to the National Maritime union. (CIO)

In the summer of 1939 the NMU went on strike against the tanker companies. Almost immediately there were repeated attacks on members of the union and its picket lines in Dies' congressional district in which large oil properties are located (see appendix).

Leader of the goon squad was an ex-communist and drunkard, Wm. C. McQuiston (indicted on March 13, 1939 1940 for murder in New ~~Orleans~~ Orleans). When the NMU protested to the Department of Justice, J. Edgar Hoover reported "no grounds for federal intervention."

While Joseph Curran, NMU president, was engaged in negotiations with shipowners for a new contract, he was suddenly called before the Dies committee. (His testimony, ^{containing} ~~because of~~ the sharp attacks

on Dies and the committee has been omitted from the printed record) . Few questions were asked him and Dies, the same night, blanketed the Curran story by his radio attack on the President (supra.).

The following Monday McQuiston was put on the witness stand and told a lurid story, climaxed by an assertion that "Communist gunmen" were going to "get him." (see appendix.) Since McQuiston testified before the committee, was arrested, ^{and} beat extradition, he has hung around town, continuing to draw witness fees and spending his time in a notorious dive.

On November 17, after making spectacular headlines with a "personal investigation" of the McQuiston arrest (an investigation which never produced anything more than a one edition story to the effect that McQuiston was a Department of Justice agent and the murdered man, Philip Carey, his assistant) Dies headed for Chicago.

In Chicago Dies announced "There will be hundreds of indictments--and convictions--of persons who have violated the laws of this country in spreading subversive propaganda." He also announced that there would be indictments on the "mishandling of union funds", referring apparently to the Packinghouse Workers Organizing Committee (CIO).

In Chicago the Dies announcement created a stir, ^{for} the important PWOC had an NLRB election scheduled for Armours on November 21.

On the same day, Dies personal aide, John C. Metcalfe, told the Chicago DAR that the Dies investigation was to expose "red" activities in the ~~union~~ PWOC.

The next ~~day~~ day, November 18, secret hearings were held by the committee, but the news of it was allowed ~~to~~ "leak" to the strikebound ~~the~~ Hearst paper, the Chicago ~~News~~ Herald-American. This story said "thousands of dollars ~~had~~ of union funds had been diverted to other sources" that the union's constitution had been "drawn

up at a communist meeting", that two communists could "tie up the nation's meat packing industry by merely sending telegrams"(see appendix), that the union's mail "was delivered first to ~~some~~ communist headquarters and only such mail as was deemed proper for PWOC consumption was ~~allowed~~ allowed to pass on to the PWOC ~~membership~~ membership or officers not holding red cards."

Herbert March, district ~~director~~ director of the PWOC in Chicago, filed an affidavit detailing the ~~way~~ way in which Dies was brought to Chicago.(see appendix.)

Without waiting for the Armour election, Dies made a flying trip to Pittsburgh where the SWOC was negotiating for new contracts.

Dies said he was convinced "foreign agents" would "resort to sabotage, espionage, and labor strike" in that area in an effort to block shipments of arms and supplies to allied armies.

"This is one of the worst spots in the ~~country~~ country," Dies told Pittsburgh papers. "I am convinced that communists hold some key ~~positions~~ positions in labor unions here. Both communists and nazis have installed agents in jobs in key industries."

Nothing is said about the PWOC or the SWOC in the Dies committee report.

Dies next went to Detroit, where the Chrysler strike was in progress. He told the same story about "foreign agents", said that 3,500 persons in that city were members of subversive ~~organizations~~ organizations controlled by foreign powers. He said he would return about December 1 for a two-weeks hearings. Such hearings have not been held. (see appendix for evidence of use of labor spies.)

Another example of Dies' anti-union activities was in the case of the Farm ~~Equipment~~ Equipment Workers Organizing Committee(CIO) and the International Harvester Co. in Richmond, Ind. ~~The~~ An