

1942 LETTER # 20

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MR. DIES FROM NOW ON

The peripatetic Mr. Martin Dies, at last hearing, was in California, still boasting that momentarily he was going to put the Department of Justice out of business insofar as turning up Axis agents is concerned. With him, presumably, were the "experts" who turned out such a nice piece of copy-work in the famous "Yellow Book."

In the East, however, the ineffable Rep. Parnell Thomas of the Dies Committee was carrying the ball in the old divisive smear game. Said Thomas on May 18: "At the next session of the Dies Committee, I shall recommend that the committee make the New Deal-Communist marriage our first order of business." (In a wire to President Roosevelt denouncing his action for national unity in freeing Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist Party.)

Is It a Campaign Fund? What Dies does with the \$110,000 appropriated for his committee is a matter of grave concern to the country. It's quite a fund for an anti-administration gang to have in an election year, when the main struggle is going to be between the disunifiers and appeasers on one hand, and the Win-the-War forces of the Administration. What Dies can be counted on to try to do is to come out with spectacular, unfounded, smears of Administration supporters--or of the Administration itself--at moments timed to confuse the election issues. (Remember what he did to Governor Murphy of Michigan?) It is up to the people to keep up their fight to keep that \$110,000 from being used as an election fund against the Victory effort.

Anti-Dies Editorials The supporters of unity and Victory, however, have reason to be encouraged in their fight against Dies and his supporters. Not only is there the record vote against him (Letter #19); there is also the little matter that the newspaper opposition against his antics has grown from practically nothing to quite formidable proportions as it becomes clearer that those who align themselves with him are aligning themselves with defeatism, and that the main defeatist organs and individuals of the country are among his most vociferous supporters. A very cursory survey of editorial opposition to Dies in the recent fight against continuation of his un-American work shows the following line-up against him among daily newspapers alone, including some of the most respected and influential in the country:

ALABAMA: Montgomery Advertiser, Journal ("Dies and His Lies"); Birmingham Age-Herald ("Ranch Party"). CALIFORNIA: San Francisco Chronicle ("Dies Committee Jumbles Rattlesnakes and Mare's-Nests"); People's World. CONNECTICUT: Hartford Courant ("Congressman Dies Rides Again"; "What Good Has Been Accomplished?").

FLORIDA: Miami Herald ("Nuisance and Menace"), News; Tampa Times. GEORGIA: Atlanta Journal (by Ralph Smith), Constitution ("Voices of Discord"). IDAHO: Lewiston Tribune. ILLINOIS: Chicago Times ("Dies Throws a Smelly one"), News, Sun; Springfield Register; Decatur Herald; East St. Louis Journal. INDIANA: Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette. IOWA: Dubuque Herald ("Comfort to the Enemy"), Telegram; Des Moines Register ("No Time for More Vaudeville Now"; "The Shame of Dies' Appropriation").

KANSAS: Emporia Gazette. KENTUCKY: Louisville Courier-Journal ("The Facts Don't Justify Mr. Dies' Committee"); Lexington Herald. LOUISIANA: New Orleans Times-Picayune. MASSACHUSETTS: Springfield Republican; Boston Christian Science Monitor; Worcester Telegram ("Time to Fold Up"); MICHIGAN: Detroit Free Press ("Dies Serves Disunity"); MINNESOTA: St. Paul Post-Dispatch ("Played Out"); Minneapolis Star-Journal ("The Dies Committee: A Bad Buy"), Tribune ("Let's Do Away with Dies").