

Dies Charges Bureaucrats Plot His 'Purge' at Polls

Financial Support Pledged Candidates Who Oppose Him, Texan Declares

By WILLIAM STRAND

Representative Martin Dies (D.), of Texas, Chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, charged yesterday that Administration bureaucrats are working actively against him in his campaign for re-election. Their anxiety to purge him from Congress, he said, has led them to solicit candidates to run against him with offers of political and financial support for anyone willing to be his opponent.

So far, it was learned, there have been no takers in a district which has returned the tall Texan to the House for six consecutive terms. Dies did not name the bureaucrats who are seeking to unseat him. However, he denounced their tactics as following the Hitler line through which the German Reichstag was reduced to a chamber of impotent puppets.

Like Hitler Government

"This is the very sort of hateful thing we are fighting against," he asserted. "It is the kind of government Hitler established; the type of pressure which led to the destruction of the independence of the German Reichstag and made it a puppet of Hitler. If Congress will stand by me I will put a stop to these Hitler methods.

"It seems to me all Federal officials and administrative heads can find plenty to do during this crisis to help win the war rather than to help control and dominate elective officers and penalize patriotic Representatives who are attempting to do their duty under the Constitution and their oaths of office."

The committee chairman, who has led in the fight to expose subversive activities throughout the country, is known for his efforts to oust Nazis, Communists and fellow travelers from the public pay roll. Recently his committee issued a blistering report on the campaign to purge members of Congress initiated by certain newspapers and magazines and a radio gossip monger.

Preparing Legislation

Yesterday he announced he is preparing legislation which he will shortly introduce which will tighten the laws governing campaign expenditures for Federal offices. The present law, he asserted, is constantly being evaded by having friends of candidates collect and spend campaign contributions in their behalf, thus avoiding the requirement for reporting their full cash outlays.

"In my bill, I will make it a

penitentiary offense for anyone, whether individual or corporation, to expend any amount of money in behalf of any candidate for Federal office, whether in the primary or general election, unless such person files a sworn statement showing the amount of money involved, the purposes for which it was spent and where it came from," he explained. "This will put a stop to the practice of using public or private funds to buy public office."

He said the legislation would also outlaw the furnishing of lists of Government employes to candidates and make ineligible for re-appointment for two years any Federal office holder who resigns to run for an elective post.

Between \$2,500 to \$5,000

Under the Corrupt Practices Act, expenditures for members of the House are limited to between \$2,500 and \$5,000, and for the Senate, between \$10,000 and \$25,000. These limitations now apply only to general elections. The legislation described by Dies would represent the first attempt to control expenditures in primary campaigns, although the Supreme Court has held the Federal Government has that right.

It was noted any attempt to beat Dies in an overwhelmingly Democratic State of the South would have to be made in the primary where nomination is tantamount to election, rather than in the election itself. And, said legal experts, any attempt of the bureaucrats to use their offices or Federal funds to oust him would be a clear violation of the Hatch Clean Politics Act, which forbids pernicious political activity on the part of State or Federal employes.