

P. 48/22

Dies Wakes Up to Nazi Plot in U. S. A.

PM's Bureau *42*

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—Martin Dies (D., Tex.), who has taken a long time to do anything about Nazi activities in the U. S. A., now wants FDR to establish "some form of surveillance" over 17,000 "American Germans."



Martin Dies

The Chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities has sent to the President the names of 17,000 people who, he said, "belong in the category of 'American Germans' and asserted they 'should have some form of surveillance over their activities.'"

He enclosed a document "recently come into our possession," which, he asserted, "emanates from none other than Walter Kappe, who is now being sought as Hitler's master spy in the United States." Kappe was first exposed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which broadcast an alarm for his arrest.

Dies said his Committee had started investigating the German American Bund four years ago this week and would publish soon its "final report on the activities of various Nazi and pro-Nazi organizations."

Concerning the Kappe document, Dies wrote that the FBI considered Kappe the brains of a sabotage ring which the Nazi High Command "hoped to establish in the United States with headquarters at Chicago."

AN EDITORIAL

This looks like a regulation Dies red herring. The bombastic Texan is in particular bad odor at the moment as a consequence of passing his libel bills off on the people. And it is a standard Dies technique to try to divert the public interest by digging up a new scare—this time a Nazi scare. He's got away with it before.

If he has something this time we ought to do something about it. But past performances are against him. Dies has never shown the same zeal chasing Nazis as he has liberals.—J. D.