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PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
OF THE
RECORDS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS:
SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTED PURSUANT TO
HOUSE RESOLUTION 105, 78th CONGRESS

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INTRODUCTION

In the 1930's there was a feeling in the House of Representatives that many persons of questionable loyalty were occupying influential positions in the Federal Government and that their influence must not remain unchallenged. In May 1938, the House of Representatives created the Committee on Un-American Activities as part of its program to combat subversive activities. This committee, which became known as the Dies Committee, after its Chairman, Representative Martin Dies of Texas, conducted a series of investigations and prepared lists of names of persons and organizations which it deemed subversive. The creation of the Dies Committee was followed by provisions such as sec. 9A of the Hatch Act, 53 Stat. 1148, 1149 and sec 15 (f) and sec. 17 (b) of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1941, 54 Stat. 611, which forbade the holding of a Federal job by anyone who was a member of a political party or organization that advocated the overthrow of the government of the United States. It became the practice to include a similar prohibition in all appropriation acts, together with criminal penalties for its enforcement. Under these provisions, the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted investigations of thousands of Federal employees for evidence of subversive activities.

On February 1, 1943, Representative Dies, in a speech on the floor of the House, attacked thirty-nine named employees of the Federal Government as unfit to hold Government positions because of being affiliates of "Communist front organizations," among other things. He urged Congress to refuse to appropriate money for their salaries. Four days later an amendment was offered to the Treasury-Post Office Appropriation Bill providing that "no part of any appropriation contained in this act shall be used to pay the compensation of" the thirty-nine persons figuring in Rep. Dies' speech. This proposed amendment provoked a debate that continued for several days. Though the participants in the debate agreed that the charges against the thirty-nine persons were serious, they differed over the proposed disposition of these charges. Some expressed a willingness to accept Rep. Dies' statements as sufficient proof of the unfitness of the thirty-nine persons to serve the Federal Government; others argued that since the charges amounted to "indictments," justice and fair play demanded that the thirty-nine persons be accorded a hearing wherein they might have an opportunity to answer the charges. At length, Rep. Dies suggested that the Committee on Appropriations be charged with the task to "weigh the evidence and . . . take immediate steps to dismiss these people from the Federal service." Eventually House Resolution 105, 78th Congress, was proposed to defer action on the cases of the thirty-nine persons until the Committee on Appropriations could make a review of the available evidence concerning these persons and report its findings and conclusions to the House of Representatives.

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House Resolution 105, 78th Congress, introduced by Rep. Clarence Cannon of Missouri, chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, was adopted by the House of Representatives on February 9, 1943. The resolution provides:

That the Committee on Appropriations, acting through a special subcommittee thereof appointed by the chairman of such committee for the purposes of this resolution, is authorized and directed to examine into any and all allegations or charges that certain persons in the employ of the several executive departments and other executive agencies are unfit to continue in such employment by reason of their present association or membership or past association or membership in or with organizations whose aims or purposes are or have been subversive to the Government of the United States. Such examination shall be pursued with the view of obtaining all available evidence bearing upon each particular case and reporting to the House the conclusions of the committee with respect to each such case in the light of the factual evidence obtained. Any legislation approved by the committee as a result of this resolution may be incorporated in any general or special appropriation measure emanating from such committee or may be offered as a committee amendment to any such measure notwithstanding the provisions of clause 2 of rule XXI

The purpose of the resolution was thus described by the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations in his remarks urging its adoption: "The third and really important effect is that we will expedite adjudication and disposition of these cases and thereby serve both the accused and the Government. These men against whom charges are pending are faced with a serious situation. If they are not guilty they are entitled to prompt exoneration; on the other hand, if they are guilty, then the quicker the Government removes them the sooner and the more certainly will we protect the Nation against sabotage and fifth-column activity."

Pursuant to the foregoing resolution, a special subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations was constituted, composed of Messrs. John H. Kerr of North Carolina (chairman), Albert Gore of Tennessee, Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico, D. Lane Powers of New Jersey, and Frank B. Keefe of Wisconsin. The subcommittee made an examination of the available evidence bearing on its inquiry and in addition, conducted executive hearings in which those persons who were objects of its inquiry were given an opportunity to answer the charges filed against them and to submit statements on their behalf for the record of the subcommittee. The subcommittee

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reported the findings and recommendations derived from its inquiry to the Committee on Appropriations. In turn, the Committee on Appropriations submitted the findings and recommendations of its special subcommittee as part of its report to the House of Representatives (H. Rept. 448, 78th Congress), and offered therein an amendment to the urgent deficiency appropriation bill (H.R. 2714, 78th Congress) to implement the recommendation of its special subcommittee.

The records of the special subcommittee amount to approximately five cubic feet; and being subject to the orders of the House of Representatives, cannot be made available to any person except by express permission of the House of Representatives.

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RECORDS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS. Feb. 1943-June 1943. 4 in. 1

This series consists of correspondence of the chairman with the Attorney General, the President of the Civil Service Commission, members of Congress, and others regarding the agenda of the subcommittee; memoranda of anonymous authorship respecting the agenda of the subcommittee; correspondence from citizens commenting on the task committed to the subcommittee by House Resolution 105, 78th Congress, or offering to vouch for the loyalty of certain employees who were objects of the subcommittee's inquiry; investigative reports concerning charges of subversive activities against Frederick Augustus Blossom, Publications Officer, Library of Congress; and against Nathan Loren Halpern, Special Assistant to the Deputy Director of the Division of Civilian Supplies, War Production Board; informational materials relating to the American Peace Mobilization, American Youth Congress, Communist Party of the United States, National Negro Congress, Washington Committee for Democratic Action, and Workers' Alliance of America; and a list of names of employees of executive departments and agencies concerning whom the subcommittee was to examine evidence pursuant to its inquiry; minutes of the meeting of the members of the subcommittee on February 10, 1943; and a printed copy of H. Res. 105, 78th Congress. Arranged by subject or by name of individual.

RECORDS RELATING TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES INVESTIGATED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 105, 78th CONGRESS. Feb. 1943-Nov. 1943. 4½ ft. 2

The records of this series comprise evidence examined by the subcommittee in executing the trust committed to it by H. Res. 105, 78th Congress. This series consists of correspondence of the subcommittee with executive departments and agencies regarding its requests for the submission of information and of personnel and other records in their possession concerning certain of their employees who were objects of the subcommittee's inquiry, plus copies of correspondence, memoranda, and other records from the files of executive departments and agencies submitted pursuant to the foregoing requests; investigative reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, setting forth findings of special agents of the Bureau derived from investigations of the aforesaid employees for evidence of subversive activities; stenographic transcripts of testimony received by the House Un-American Activities Committee from the employees in question in respect to charges reflecting on

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their loyalty; staff memoranda furnishing detailed personal histories of these Federal employees based on findings of investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the House Un-American Activities Committee; correspondence from citizens and representatives of organizations offering to vouch for the loyalty of certain of the aforesaid Federal employees; memoranda summarizing the charges of subversive activities against certain Federal employees voiced by Rep. Martin Dies of Texas in a speech in the House of Representatives on February 1, 1943, together with photostats of documents offered in substantiation of these charges; correspondence of the subcommittee with employees under investigation concerning charges filed against them, the subcommittee's invitation to them to appear before it in answer to the charges, or the subcommittee's consideration of the evidence relating to their cases; and printer's copies of the appendices to the published hearings of the subcommittee on the fitness of Goodwin B. Watson, William E. Dodd, Jr., and Robert Morss Lovett to serve the Federal Government. Arranged alphabetically by name of individual; see the Appendix for a list showing the contents of this series.

TRANSCRIPTS OF EXECUTIVE HEARINGS. April 2, 1943-May 28, 1943.

3 in.

3

Stenographic transcripts of the executive hearings of the subcommittee in which the following employees of the Federal Government furnished testimony related to the subcommittee's inquiry: Marcus I. Goldman, of the Interior Department; Jack Bradley Fahy, of the Interior Department; Arthur E. Goldschmidt, of the Interior Department; Maurice Parmelee, of the Railroad Retirement Board; Frederick L. Schuman, of the Federal Communications Commission; David R. Wahl, of the Board of Economic Warfare; and Nathaniel Weyl, of the Board of Economic Warfare. Arranged alphabetically by name of individual.

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APPENDIX

Records Relating to Employees of Executive Departments and
Agencies Investigated by the Subcommittee Pursuant to House
Resolution 105, 78th Congress

Henry Garfield Alsbury
Office of War Information
Senior Feature Writer, Overseas Division

Alice Prentiss Barrows
Federal Security Agency
Educationist, Office of Education

Mary McLeod Bethune
Federal Security Agency
Director of Negro Affairs, National Youth Administration

Thomas Arthur Bisson
Board of Economic Warfare
Principal Economic Analyst, Far Eastern Division

Karl Borders
Office of Price Administration
Director, Hawaii

Paul F. Brissenden
War Production Board
Consultant, Shipbuilding Stabilization Division

Jay Deiss
Federal Security Agency
Senior Editorial Writer, Office of Education

William E. Dodd, Jr.
Federal Communications Commission
Assistant News Editor, Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service

Joseph Angelo Facci
Office of War Information
Senior Foreign Language Information Advisor

Jack Bradley Fahy
Board of Economic Warfare
Principal Liaison Officer on Loan to Interior Department

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Milton V. Freeman
Securities and Exchange Commission
Assistant Solicitor

Walter Gellhorn
Office of Price Administration
Assistant General Counsel

Marcus Isaac Goldman
Department of the Interior
Scientist, Geological Survey

Arthur E. Goldschmidt
Department of the Interior
Acting Director of the Power Division

John Herling
Office for Emergency Management
Business Consultant, Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs

Henry Thomas Hunt
Federal Works Agency
Special Assistant to the General Counsel

Gardner Jackson
Department of Agriculture
Principal Economist, Office of the Secretary

Richmond Keith Kane
Office of War Information
Assistant Director in Charge of Intelligence

David Karr
Office of War Information
Assistant Chief, Foreign Language Division

Katharine Amend Kellock
Board of Economic Warfare
Analyst, Reoccupation and Reconstruction Division

Harry C. Lambertson
Rural Electrification Administration
Assistant General Counsel

David Lasser
War Production Board
Senior Labor Economist

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Emil John Lever
War Production Board
Principal Field Representative, Labor Division

William Lewis
Office for Emergency Management
Assistant Director, Office of Facts and Figures

Harold Loeb
War Production Board
Senior Economist in Building Materials

Robert Morss Lovett
Department of the Interior
Government Secretary of the Virgin Islands

Hugh Miller
Department of the Interior
Senior Attorney, Bituminous Coal Division

Leonard Emil Mins
Office of Strategic Services, Research Analyst

Henry Lee Moon
National Housing Agency
Senior Racial Relations Adviser, New York Office

Maurice Parmelee
Railroad Retirement Board
Economist, Office of Director of Research

William H. Pickens
Treasury Department
Principal Defense Securities Promotion Specialist, Defense Savings Staff

Paul Robert Porter
War Production Board
Chairman, Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee

Morris S. Rosenthal
Board of Economic Warfare
Assistant Director, Office of Imports

David Joseph Saposs
War Production Board
Chief Economic Adviser to the Director of the Labor Production Division

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Edward John Scheunemann
Office of Price Administration
Assistant Attorney

Sam Schmerler
Federal Security Agency
Policy Consultant, Social Security Board

Frederick Lewis Schuman
Federal Communications Commission
Principal Political Analyst, Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service

Albert C. Shire
Board of Economic Warfare
Assistant Chief Engineer (Executive Administrator), Office of
Economic Warfare Analysis

George Slaff
Federal Power Commission
Principal Attorney, Bureau of Law

Thomas H. Tippet
Office of Price Administration
Assistant Chief, Rent Section

Merle Dean Vincent
Department of Labor
Director, Exemptions Branch, Wages and Hours Division

David R. Wahl
Board of Economic Warfare
Associate Analyst, Office of Economic Warfare Analysis

Goodwin B. Watson
Federal Communications Commission
Chief of the Analysis Division, Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service

Nathaniel Weyl
Board of Economic Warfare
Principal Business Analyst