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HOUSE EMBROILED BY MAYNE LETTERS

Hook's Failure to Expunge Alleged Forgeries Fans Tilt Over Pelley and Dies

MARCANTONIO FOR INQUIRY

New Yorker Quotes Story Linking Whitley, Committee Counsel, to 'Conspiracy'

By HENRY N. DORRIS

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The controversy over the alleged forged letters of William Dudley Pelley, Silver Shirt leader, which were put in the Congressional Record by Representative Hook of Michigan, virtually displaced consideration of the Agriculture Supply Bill in the House today.

Mr. Hook asked unanimous consent to expunge from the Record the letters, which allegedly sought to establish collusion between Mr. Pelley and Representative Dies, chairman of the Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities, and were made public in an effort to prevent the continuation of the Dies Committee.

Representative Keefe of Wisconsin objected to Mr. Hook's request "as long as the gentleman has a mental reservation" as to the authenticity of the letters, which was questioned by the Dies Committee. The committee said it had established that the letters were written by David Mayne, Washington representative of the Silver Shirt leader.

Affidavit Test Awaited

Mr. Hook replied that he had sent the letter to the Department of Justice, and read a letter of acknowledgement by Robert H. Jackson, Attorney General, who promised to look into the matter. Until such time as he had a report from the department, Mr. Hook said, he would not accompany his request for expunging the letters with a statement of apology to Mr. Dies and the Dies Committee.

Mr. Hook insisted he had an affidavit from Mr. Mayne that the letters were genuine, while the Dies Committee yesterday said it had an affidavit from Mr. Mayne that he had prepared the letters and signed them with the name, "Pelley," purposely misspelling the name of the Silver Shirt leader.

Mr. Hook said he wanted the Justice Department to find out which of the affidavits was true.

After several sharp exchanges between Mr. Hook and Mr. Keefe, during which Representatives Rayburn and Martin, the majority and minority leaders, took a hand, the floor was given to Representative Marcantonio of New York.

Marcantonio Quotes "Plot" Story

Mr. Marcantonio demanded that the House investigate the facts contained in a story published yesterday by The New York Sun to the effect that the Dies Committee had hired private detectives to sell false papers to members of Congress who sought evidence about the committee.

Emphasizing that the Sun, and not he, had made the charges, he quoted the story as saying that Mr. Mayne told Rhea Whitley, counsel for the Dies Committee, that Mr. Hook intended attacking Mr. Dies on the House floor.

"If Mr. Whitley knew this," he added, "I submit that counsel engaged in this conspiracy just as much as Mr. Mayne."

As further quoted, the story stated The Sun had learned that representatives of the Dies committee, with "false papers to be turned over," working with private detectives, "arranged a 'plant' in New York in which \$4,000 was offered by a magazine editor."

Although voicing incredulity, Mr. Marcantonio said:

"But this committee is not a scared cow. Any members has the right to oppose it or to investigate it. The New York Sun and the committee will have to thrash it out. The integrity of the House is at stake. An investigation should be made now. Otherwise, no member is safe in attempting to find out anything about any committee."

Voorhis Absolves Committee

Representative Voorhis of California, as chairman of a Dies subcommittee named to find Mr. Pelley, said he had authorized payment of expenses for Mr. Mayne to go to North Carolina to induce Mr. Pelley to testify about the Silver Shirts.

He said he did not know, and did not think any other member of the committee knew, of the alleged forged Pelley letters until they were made a part of the committee's testimony, which, he added, did not show that any one had paid money for the letters knowing they were forgeries.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the letters are forgeries," he said, "but I say also that great care should be spent by any one, including the Dies Committee, when any one's reputation is concerned."

Representative Dempsey of New Mexico, a member of the Dies Committee, stated that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had estab-

lished that the letters were written on Mr. Mayne's typewriter.

He said also that the notary before whom the Mayne affidavit in Mr. Hook's possession had been made had stated that he did not acknowledge it and did not know Mr. Mayne.

Gardner Jackson, legislative representative of Labor's Non-Partisan League, asserted in a statement that the Dies Committee, to impugn his motives, had "distorted" the facts of his testimony yesterday when he was heard along with Harold Weisberg, who Mr. Mayne swore had paid him \$105 for the letters.

In executive session again today, the committee heard Merwin K. Hart, president of the New York State Economic League, testify that he had never heard of the Christian Front until after a meeting of his counsel addressed by Mr. Dies in New York. The alleged forged Pelley letters had sought to show that Mr. Hart had knowledge of the Christian Front.

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