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New York Times. 22nd, October. 1940.

FINDS AXIS AGENTS IN DEFENSE PLANTS

Dies Asserts 5,000 Potential Saboteurs Are Working in Detroit Industries

HEARS 'SECRET' INFORMERS

Chairman of Congress Inquiry Declares Blow at Key Positions Is Planned

DETROIT, Oct. 21 (AP)—Martin Dies of Texas who came here for secret conferences with persons he described as "informers," said in interviews today that about 5,000 potential saboteurs are working in this industrial center and that the government has been "negligent and lax" in efforts to wipe out subversive organizations.

The chairman of the House Committee investigating un-American activities said that many foreign agents were employed in key positions in plants in this section working on war contracts. Acts of sabotage, he said would be committed when the defense program reached its maximum output.

Mr. Dies said he planned to catalogue those he described as potential saboteurs by names and occupation and that he would seek to have them discharged from their jobs.

"Employers say they cannot fire some of these saboteurs," he added, "because of the National Labor Relations Board. We may have to have a showdown on that."

At Toledo Mr. Dies said the government had not taken adequate steps "to handle the situation," and continued:

"I don't believe we realize the danger in this country. It is the very thing that has brought Europe to the brink of ruin. These subversive organizations, if allowed to continue, will do to this country exactly what was done in France."

He identified some of the organizations as the German-American Bund, the Kyffhauserbund, the I. W. W., the International Labor Defense League, the maritime unions and the Transport Workers Union.

"Organizations of this type," he said, "should be outlawed and their agents deported."

Mr. Dies said he had not decided whether his committee would hold meetings here. "That depends upon what the informers tell me," he stated. The information given by the "informers," he declared, was "important to the United States that their identities must be kept secret.

Raids on German Sources

By The United Press.

DETROIT, Oct. 21—Chairman Dies of the House Committee Investigating Un-American Activities, declared today that he had positive evidence that Axis agents are working in this area.

Recent raids on German establishments in the East "provided us with the names" of some potential saboteurs "and we now hope to get the names of the rest and complete our catalogue," he said.

Millions of dollars worth of defense contracts have been placed in Detroit and Michigan in recent weeks. A majority of the State's vast motor industry is at work on some phase of the defense program.

"We won't accept employers' plea that workers can't be discharged because the National Labor Relations Board and the unions won't allow it," Mr. Dies added, reiterating a previous statement that "we have definite information of a series of sabotage acts scheduled to start here as soon as defense production is well under way.

"The agents of the Axis are already in their places. Our mission is to warn the country of what is going to happen."

Mr. Dies stated that he may be here "two or three weeks" and that his investigation would extend into the out-State area as well as in Detroit.