

and they were sometimes dismissed without being told why, although there was reason to believe it was for nothing more sinister than working for the abolition of the poll tax or for aid to Loyalist Spain.

The attorney general's report to Congress on the uses to which he had put the \$100,000 constituted a rebuttal to both sides in this dispute, but more emphatically to Chairman Dies. With the investigation largely completed, only two persons on the Dies list had been dismissed and a third had been subjected to some lesser disciplinary action. Most of the names submitted, it was evident, had simply been culled from mailing lists of fellow-traveling organizations like the National Federation of Constitutional Liberties and its capital chapter, the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, and, commented Biddle tartly, "never should have been submitted for investigation in the first place." He concluded with the observation that sweeping charges of disloyalty in the federal service were unjustified and that the results of the investigation were "utterly disproportionate to the resources expended"; he recommended that thereafter investigations of federal employees be restricted to cases where there were substantial reasons for suspecting a violation of the law. (Congress showed its appreciation by giving his department another \$200,000 to proceed with the investigations Biddle strenuously opposed.)

Dies was roused to customary fury by the attorney general's report, and he used a point of personal privilege, now becoming his favorite parliamentary device, to denounce Biddle for ignoring the mandate of Congress. The Congressional directive, he pointed out, had ordered the attorney general "to investigate the employees of every department, agency and independent establishment of the federal government who are members of subversive organizations or advocate the overthrow of the federal government, and report its findings to Congress." What this meant, explained Dies, was that Biddle was supposed to supply Congress with "the names of the members of the organizations, tell who the subversive organizations are . . ." instead of presuming to make an investigation on his own, in cahoots with agency heads who were themselves on one or more tainted