AMERICA WAKE UP, Broadcast No. 47

REVIEW OF "MARTIN DIES' STORY"

ANNOUNCER: AMERICA WAKE UP, in cooperation with the Daughters of the American Revolution, State of Illinois, presents Phyllis Schlafly:

MRS. SCHLAFLY: The published memoirs of great men provide some of the most important sources of historical data. One of the best such autobiographical volumes of our time was published recently under the title MARTIN DIES' STORY. The author of this book is a Texas Congressman named Martin Dies, the founder and first chairman of the Congressional Committee known for seven years as the Dies Committee, and now known as the U.S. House Committee on Un-American Activities. This book is important to all Americans, not only because of the history it contains, but because its message is timely and its lessons are still valuable. In his Foreword, Martin Dies answers the question some will ask: "Why drag out and rattle old skeletons?" Dies cautions us: "The answer, simply and bluntly, is that those skeletons represent living, breathing, dynamic, clever and furtive forces, which still are working ceaselessly to destroy us -- you and me -- and our belief in the dignity and sanctity of man."

MARTIN DIES' STORY contains many priceless quotations from prominent Americans. For example, he quotes President Franklin Roosevelt's statement in 1943: "I have just a hunch that Stalin doesn't want anything but security for his country, and I think that if I give him everything I possibly can and ask for nothing from him in return, noblesse oblige, he won't try to annex anything and will work for a world democracy and peace." This, of course, was the delusion that led to the concessions our Government made to the Soviets at Teheran and Yalta, which had such tragic results for the free world. Another

valuable quotation is this statement by our commanding officer during the Korean War, General Mark Clark, when he signed the truce agreement in Korea: "I gained the unenviable distinction of being the first United States Army Commander in history to sign an armistice without a victory."

In his book, Martin Dies gives the true account of a great American patriot named Dr. William A. Wirt, a famous educator from Gary, Indiana. In 1933, Dr. Wirt had gone to Washington, D.C. on a visit, and at a dinner party had come into contact with government officials who were secretly aiding the Communists. As a patriot, Dr. Wirt tried to expose this attempt to destroy our government, and he publicly asserted that there was a deliberately conceived plot among the New Deal leftists to "overthrow the established social order" and substitute a "planned economy" in our country. Dr. Wirt said that the government officials at the dinner party had boasted that President Roosevelt would be "the Kerensky of the coming American revolution."

Immediately there was a great furor. Congressman Bulwinkle, under cover of Congressional immunity, charged that Wirt had been jailed for pro-German activities during World War I. This charge was completely false, but it made the front page of most newspapers, while the retraction, five days later, wound up on the back pages. Dr. Wirt became the target of abuse and ridicule, such as the slogan that things were going "from bad to Wirt". A special Congressional committee was set up to pillory Dr. Wirt. He was denied benefit of counsel, denied the right to read a ten-minute statement in his own behalf, and denied the right to question opposing witnesses.

Congressman John J. O'Connor, one of the members of the Committee set up to ruin Dr. Wirt, later confessed regret for his part in the proceedings. O'Connor said: "On the sixth anniversary of the 'purging'

of Dr. William A. Wirt before a Congressional Special Committee of which I was an active member, I desire to relieve my conscience of a matter which has long burdened it.... While he named names and quoted his informants, I took a leading part as 'prosecutor' and 'inquisitor'. ... The pack got the smell of blood and tracked down the prey! A great job was done! Little did we know that most of the happenings which Dr. Wirt said the plotters had predicted would come to pass. Most of them came true even before Dr. Wirt's untimely and regrettable death. Or maybe, in our hearts we knew the plot was not idle gossip and we lunged at the discloser to appease our consciences. Many times privately have I apologized for my part in turning the thumb-screws, and I take this occasion to do so publicly. May Dr. Wirt's honest, patriotic soul rest in peace. His was 'the voice of one crying in the wilderness.'"

Dr. Wirt was only the first of a long line of patriots who have been the targets of smear, ridicule, epithets and harassment because they dared to be anti-Communist. As J. Edgar Hoover said: "Anyone who opposes the American Communist is at once branded as a 'disrupter; a Fascist, a Red baiter,' or 'Hitlerite', and becomes the object of a systematic campaign of character assassination." Without bitterness, anger or resentment, Martin Dies recounts the treatment he himself received from the Communists and from those who did the work of the Communists.

One of the most powerful weapons used against anti-Communists is harassment of loved ones. Dies received many threats that his son would be kidnapped, and one day a kidnapping attempt was made, which fortunately was not successful. He tells how his wife received a steady stream of anonymous telephone calls at night. The caller would make remarks such as "Well, is your husband dead yet?" and "I'm doing

a lot of praying, but not for what you think. I am praying that Dies dies." Dies tells how the Communist secret police in America murdered one of the principal witnesses to appear before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, General Walter G. Krivitsky. Dies tells how his enemies tried to lay a clever trap to catch him with a beautiful woman, how they used forged documents to smear him as Fascist, and how they tried to plant Nazi agents on him.

One of the most interesting parts of MARTIN DIES' STORY is his account of how President Roosevelt personally tried to persuade Dies to give up his investigation of Communism. In 1938 when Martin Dies began his exposure of Communist infiltration in Government, he was one of the top speakers in the country. He hailed from Texas, the home of many powerful men in the Democratic Party. If he had followed the path of personal ambition, Dies could easily have been where his fellow-Texas, Lyndon Johnson, is today. One day in 1940, President Roosevelt called Dies into his office and used his most persuasive manner to cajole Dies into giving up his investigation of Communism. It was on this occasion that Roosevelt made his famous statement: "There is nothing wrong with the Communists in this country. Several of the best friends I have are Communists." Roosevelt talked to Dies like a son, called him "Martin", and pictured for him the great rewards that the Administration could give if Dies would only "go along" and abandon the Committee on Un-American Activities. It took a man of superior courage and patriotism to resist such blandishments; but this is the kind of man Dies is -- a man who was willing to sacrifice success and comfort in order to defend our country from the Communists.

The book tells how in 1943 the Roosevelt Administration decided to purge Dies from the Congress. The Administration directed the award of large Government contracts to industries in Dies's district, and brought in workers from other states and qualified them as voters.

This brought in 10,000 to 15,000 new votes, all of them beholden to the Administration, enough to swing a Congressional district. Then two Internal Revenue agents from Baltimore arrived in a principal city in Dies's district, telephoned Dies from the local hotel lobby which was full of people, and announced that they were there to investigate his income tax returns. Word spread rapidly and was greatly magnified. Internal Revenue spent six months investigating Dies and never found anything wrong, but nevertheless the publicity about the investigation did him great harm. Influential people in the district were told that, if they could get rid of Dies, the district would get more Federal spending. WPA pointedly cancelled a grant for a causeway at Port Arthur that has already been authorized. Seven years of pressure and abuse finally exacted their toll. When in 1944 Dies developed a sore on his larynx which he thought was malignant, sick, disgusted and exhausted, he announced his retirement. More than ten years later, his health partially restored, Dies was again reelected to Congress from Texas. But it is significant that he was never permitted to return to the House Committee on Un-American Activities which he founded.

As the senior Congressional investigator and one of the greatest living authorities on Communism, Martin Dies's conclusions should be listened to with respect. Here is his summation of the problem: "All of the revelations of the (House) Committee (on Un-American Activities) ... have established, beyond peradventure of doubt, that the responsibility for our present peril should be placed historically, and officially, at the feet of the American Liberals. It was they who refused to heed the huge mass of evidence collected from Communists, from former Communists, from the minutes of Communist meetings, known official documents and from intelligence sources which the Committee

uncovered and made public. ... Without exception, year in and year out, the American Liberals have defended, protected, encouraged, and aided the Communists, both in the United States and abroad. ... (There is a) sympathetic tie between the ultra-Liberals and the Communists. Actually, the ultra-Liberals have always been Socialists at heart. They have been smart enough to know that the times have not yet been ripe for an open avowal of Socialism. They have been willing to bide their time, while moving as fast as possible toward their goal of Socialism. They and the Communists have the same goal, and simply cannot build up any real antagonism. Herein lies the great danger to our traditional freedoms."

MARTIN DIES' STORY is a fascinating book which no reader will be able to put down until he has finished. Every American, and especially every student, should read this book in order to understand the nature of the enemy we face, and the debt we owe the first chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities -- the institution which has been in the front line of our defense against Communism for the past 25 years. MARTIN DIES' STORY isthe ideal "first" book for those who wish to study the record of the House Committee on Un-American Activities. It should be followed by a reading of Dies's other book, THE TROJAN HORSE IN AMERICA, and the book by the Committee's Chief Investigator for ten years, Robert Stripling, called THE RED PLOT AGAINST AMERICA. SEEDS OF TREASON by Ralph de Toledano and Victor Lasky is the best account of the exposure of Alger Hiss by this Committee. And, to bring yourself up to date about the work of the Committee and the many issues surrounding it, the best source is THE COMMITTEE AND ITS CRITICS by William F. Buckley, Jr. and the Editors of NATIONAL REVIEW.

ANNOUNCER: On your next trip to Washington, D.C., you are invited to visit the entire block of beautiful buildings owned and maintained by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Memorial Continental Hall houses 28 beautifully-decorated and furnished authentic American period rooms. Also in this building is the DAR Genealogical Reference Library, third ranking in the nation, with its 40,000 books and pamphlets and 30,000 manuscripts. The second building, called the Administration Building, contains 44 DAR offices, the Chapel, the Americana Room, which is a repository of historical documents of the early years of our Republic, and the DAR Museum Gallery containing a fine collection of 10,000 items. As a public service, both the Library and the Museum are open five days a week the year round. The third DAR building is Constitution Hall, Washington's chief and largest cultural center for the past 25 years.

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