Introducing . . .
Representative
John
Elliott
Rankin
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Representative John Elliott Rankin

Why This Statement Is Published

This statement is presented as an objective analysis of the nature and motivations of the recent attacks made against the freedom of the screen and other communications media by Representative John E. Rankin of Mississippi.

These attacks follow an often repeated pattern.

Mr. Rankin, in renewing them, speaks as a congressman and a member of the house committee on un-American activities. When he first made these charges that the motion picture industry in Hollywood is dominated largely by subversive aliens plotting against American ideals and institutions, he was temporary chairman of that committee.

Therefore, unlike similar attacks made by Gerald L. K. Smith and his followers, what Mr. Rankin does has some official status. For this reason, and because all freedom of communications is affected by implication, it is here proposed to examine factually the nature and meaning of these actions and to consider Mr. Rankin’s record to ascertain his character and motives.

We will show how the so-called Rankin committee is advancing from its attack on the freedom of the screen to an attack on the essential freedom and integrity of the radio, the theatre and the press.

We will also present briefly a few essential facts about Hollywood and its war record.

Mr. Rankin and His Investigating Committee

We believe a preliminary statement concerning the origin of the present house committee on un-American activities is in order. Mr. Rankin revived this committee from the dead ashes of the old Dies committee in the opening minutes of the first day of the 79th Congress.

The Dies committee had fallen into disrepute. Four of its members had been repudiated by the people in their districts and were no longer members of Congress. Mr. Rankin, breaking a 150 year precedent against permanent congressional investigating committees, moved to amend Rule X of the house of representatives to establish on a permanent basis a committee to investigate un-American activities.

The motion for the amendment carried by a vote of 207 to 186.
Because of the close vote and the criticism by leading members of the Administration and of congress of the tactics of the Dies committee, assurances were forthcoming from the new committee that its activities would be conducted in a responsible manner.

When these assurances proved meaningless, and such irresponsible and publicity-provoking attacks as that of Mr. Rankin on the Hollywood motion picture industry continued to be made in the name of the committee, Representative Edward J. Hart of New Jersey resigned as chairman and as a member of the committee.

After some delay, Representative John W. Wood of Georgia accepted appointment to the committee and became its chairman. In a meeting with the California delegation in Congress he agreed that no inflammatory, publicity-seeking and reputation-destroying statements should come from individual members of the committee, and that all committee action and statements should be based on thorough and responsible investigation.

That this agreement has not been kept is perhaps not the fault of Representative Wood, who apparently is unable to hold Mr. Rankin to a program of responsibility. The committee continues to be known and commonly referred to as the “Rankin committee.” Its procedures have aroused increasing criticism.

Hook Resolution Against Rankin Committee

Because of the record of Mr. Rankin and the committee which he dominates, Representative Frank Hook of Michigan has introduced in Congress a resolution calling for the disbanding of the permanent committee set up by the 207 to 186 house vote to investigate un-American activities.

This resolution had been pending in the House of Representatives for several weeks when it was given increased urgency and importance by the action of the Rankin committee in questioning the Americanism of such radio commentators as Raymond Swing, Cecil Brown, Johannes Steel, Frank Kingdon, Hans Jacob, William Gailmor, J. Raymond Walsh and Sidney Walton.

Approximately 75 radio scripts were demanded by the committee for scrutiny, including the script of Phil Baker's “Take It Or Leave It” show for September 30, 1945. In that show a young man had been asked what sort of unity would in his opinion be good for the American people. He answered that it would be the kind of unity that would unite all Americans, regardless of race, creed or color, on a basis of mutual respect and good will and induce them to work together toward the common goal of lasting peace and prosperity. This doctrine was apparently considered in the “dangerous thoughts” class by Mr. Rankin and his committee.

On October 17, 1945, Representative Ellis Patterson of California, pointing out the action of the Rankin committee was in reality an attack on basic freedom, said: “The activities of this committee on un-American activities are in themselves un-American.” Representative Hugh DeLacy of Washington said: “The committee is setting itself up as a congressional ‘thought police.’ Here is how the smear-fear technique works. Simply asking the radio stations for scripts spreads fear. Advising the press spreads the smear. The commentators whose scripts are sent for are plainly warned that they are under Government surveillance, that their thoughts are under house arrest, that in the future
they must carefully lean toward the thoughts of those controlling the un-American activities committee. The radio stations and sponsors of programs, who are in business to make money, are thus put on warning that if they wish to stay out of the center of the smear controversy, they had better get other commentators."

Representative Emmanuel Celler of New York, joining in the protest, said: "This committee is seeking to out-Dies the original Dies committee. Unfortunately, even if its hunted and hounded victims emerge vindicated, people will not be properly informed and the truth will not catch up with the lies." Replying to Mr. Celler, Mr. Rankin referred to him as "that Jewish gentleman."

**Rankin Attack on Radio, Stage, and Press**

From radio the Rankin committee advanced to an attack on the free American theatre. It called for the script of the New York stage success, "Deep Are the Roots," in which James Gow and Arnaud D'Usseau explore the problem of racial tensions in the deep South.

The free press is next in line on the Rankin agenda. It has been announced that Drew Pearson, Walter Winchell and other columnists are coming under investigation.

This cumulative process, which began with an attack on Hollywood and the screen, is now developing into a technique to subject all agencies of mass communication to censorship by a political "thought police." It has given new meaning to the Hook resolution calling for the dissolution of the Rankin committee. As a result, many thoughtful Americans and American organizations are bringing the urgency of the Hook resolution to the attention of their representatives in congress.

**Who Is Representative John E. Rankin?**

John Elliott Rankin was born in Itawamba County, Mississippi, March 29, 1882, the son of Thomas Braxton Rankin and Venola Modeste Rutledge Rankin.

He was educated in the public schools of Mississippi and the University of Mississippi. In 1910 he graduated from the law school of the university, and immediately opened a law office at West Point, Mississippi. In November, 1910, he moved to the larger town of Tupelo, where he served four years as county prosecuting attorney.

In his autobiography Mr. Rankin speaks of his status as a war veteran, and describes himself as "an ex-soldier of the First World War." He spent three weeks in the army as an officer candidate in a training school. After this 21 days of military experience he returned to Tupelo where on October 1, 1919, he married Annie Laurie Burrous of West Point, Mississippi.

In 1920 he was nominated in the Democratic primaries for the office of representative in Congress of the First Mississippi Congressional District. On November 2, 1920, he was elected a member of the 67th Congress. At that time his district had a population of 200,158. Mr. Rankin received 10,400 votes.

He was re-elected to the 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th and 78th sessions of Congress.
He is chairman of the house committee on veterans' legislation. He is a member of the house census, elections, rivers and harbors, and un-American activities committees. Although he was only acting chairman of the latter committee for a few weeks in 1945, he is regarded as its chief sponsor.

In his biography in the Congressional Directory Mr. Rankin mentions his support of TVA, and his authorship of the amendment to raise the base pay of service men to $50 a month. He does not mention his poll tax record, or his fight against the federal antilynch law, or his opposition to the federal ballot for service men. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and of the Masonic and several other fraternal organizations.

Mr. Rankin's Political Career

In his quarter of a century of service in Congress Mr. Rankin has maintained a certain consistency. Also, he has set one unchallenged political record.

He has established the record of representing the smallest number of actual voters in proportion to the population of the district represented. He has also established the record of getting himself elected the most times with the least number of voters.

A large part of his political energy has been devoted to the maintenance of these records through the perpetuation of the poll tax which has made them possible. Throughout his 25 years in Congress he has fought doggedly and successfully against any threat to the poll tax system.

He has helped his home state maintain one of the highest poll tax fees, although Mississippi is lowest in average per capita income of all the states.

Negroes make up approximately one half of Mississippi's population. Mr. Rankin, in behalf of "white supremacy," has helped to uphold the total disfranchisement of Negroes in primary elections and their virtual disfranchisement in general elections. Through his leadership in the fight to maintain the poll tax, he has contributed to the disfranchisement of most of the white population of Mississippi.

In a recent general election, the state of Mississippi with a population of 2,200,000 polled a total of 35,000 votes.

In the 1940 general election Mr. Rankin was returned to office by the votes of seven per cent of the people in his district. In the 1942 election he was returned to office by the votes of three per cent of the people in his district, and in 1944 by the votes of seven and one-half per cent.

Besides the monumental effort to protect the poll tax system, Mr. Rankin's career in Congress has been distinguished chiefly for his opposition to wage-hour labor legislation, the Fair Employment Practices Act, anti-lynching measures, the soldiers' ballot, the reform of the Veterans' Administration, and to a showdown against the aggressor nations.

Mr. Rankin has also voted several times during his quarter of a century in Congress in favor of public power. As he says in his autobiography, he supported TVA. Manufacturers of textiles and other commodities, eager to avail themselves of cheap unorganized southern labor markets, also wanted cheap public power.
Mr. Rankin, FEPC, and Soldiers’ Votes

In recent years Mr. Rankin has intensified his crusade for what he calls “white supremacy” and “Christian Americanism.”

He has consistently slurred Jews. He has many times referred to “Jews and Niggers” as a co-equal menace to his ideals of “white supremacy” and “Christian Americanism.”

The federal ballot plan for soldiers would have allowed Negro American soldiers, as well as white American soldiers, to vote. As the leader in the house floor fight against this measure, Mr. Rankin was frenetic in his opposition to it. He succeeded. The federal ballot plan was killed, and 98.6 of American fighting men overseas in 1944 did not vote.

It was favored by President Roosevelt and army leaders as a measure giving to fighting Americans the basic right of the democracy they were fighting for. But Mr. Rankin said on the floor of the house of representatives, September 3, 1942 (page 7026, Congressional Record): “It strikes at the very root of the things these men are fighting for—the preservation of our form of government and our American way of life. . . . The service men do not ask for this law, and the ones who understand it do not want it. They know it is just the first step in the communistic plot to wreck the election machinery in every state in the Union.”

Mr. Rankin frequently says he is out to “save America for white gentile Americans.” On March 13, 1945, speaking against the FEPC for which President Roosevelt and later President Truman appealed, Mr. Rankin said: “White Gentiles in this country still have some rights left, and should be protected from the persecutions they are now compelled to endure. If this (FEPC) drive continues, they will be driven entirely away from the business world, and from the professions, as well as from public life.”

On June 27, 1945, Senator Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi made an attack on Jews and Negroes during the course of his filibuster against the Fair Employment Practices Commission. Senator Bilbo read a report prepared for him by Representative Rankin, listing FEPC employees as “Jews, Niggers and white Gentiles,” and pointing out that population figures show 20 Gentiles to every Jew in America.

Mr. Rankin and the Veterans

Aside from his tilt against Hollywood and the motion picture industry, Mr. Rankin’s most recently publicized activity has been in connection with his chairmanship of the house committee on veterans’ legislation.

He has always been insistent that as an ex-soldier of the First World War, the welfare of veterans is his paramount interest.

He has been consistent in using the power of the committee he heads to foster anti-Negro and anti-Semitic attitudes in the Veterans’ Administration, and to promote antagonism between veterans and labor.

He used all his power as committee chairman to block the recent investigation of the Veterans’ Administration and of the mistreatment of veterans in many government hospitals.
For many months the Administration and its chief, General Frank T. Hines, had been under increasing fire. Serious charges were made by responsible investigators against the Administration operating 94 hospitals and employing 53,000 persons. Operating under an annual budget of $1,125,000,000, the veterans’ welfare agency was supposed to represent the conscience of America in dealing with veterans needing the help of the nation they once served.

Many disturbing facts were published in the N. Y. Times, in the Scripps-Howard newspapers, in Harper’s Magazine, in Hearst’s Cosmopolitan, in the N. Y. Herald-Tribune, in PM, in Reader’s Scope and many other publications.

As chairman of the house veterans’ legislation committee, Mr. Rankin chose to obstruct the investigation demanded by Congress and veterans’ organizations. On May 18, 1945, when the committee opened hearings on conditions within the Veterans’ Administration, Albert Deutsch, a writer on the New York newspaper PM, was called to testify. Mr. Deutsch had conducted a five months’ investigation, and had published its results in his newspaper. He is known as one of the most responsible and competent men in American journalism.

Mr. Rankin Is Overruled

Congressman Rankin did not permit him to give the committee the results of the investigation. Instead, he charged that Deutsch was “destructive” in his attitude. He demanded that Deutsch give the names of persons within the Administration who had given vital information in return for the pledge that their names would be withheld. Mr. Deutsch remained true to this pledge, and refused to give their names.

At the demand of Mr. Rankin, the committee voted 13 to 5 to indict Mr. Deutsch for contempt of Congress.

In a recent issue of Reader’s Scope, Tom May, writing of bad conditions in veterans’ hospitals, says: “In Washington powerful forces are gathering strength for a campaign to sweep the Veterans’ Administration clean. Mr. Rankin, wrangling with witnesses at committee hearings, tries to discredit the critics of the Hines’ Administration, or waves the bloody shirt of political reaction. He and General Hines have been sitting on top of a seething volcano for a long, long time. It well may be that the truth . . . will send them flying at last.”

Mr. May was prophetic. On May 29 the house committee headed by Mr. Rankin revolted against him. By a vote of 16 to 2 the committee repudiated the chairman’s policies in the conduct of the investigation, reversed itself on Albert Deutsch, and cleared him of the contempt charge. A change was pledged in the whitewash tactics of the investigation.

Shortly after that, General Frank T. Hines resigned as Veterans’ Administrator.

It was decisive defeat for Mr. Rankin—probably the most humiliating in the career of the man who had always made political capital of his interest in the welfare of his fellow veterans. He incurred the greatest volume of unfavorable publicity he had experienced.
Typical of hundreds of similar expressions is an editorial in the San Diego Sun-Tribune: “If Rep. Rankin were doing what the nation expects of its Congressmen, he would thank the reporter for revealing the manner in which veterans were being treated, and he would then set himself the task of improving conditions. Instead, he sets himself upon a punitive expedition against the press.”

Significantly, it was soon after this avalanche of criticism that Mr. Rankin opened his attack on the Hollywood motion picture industry.

**Mr. Rankin as a Publicist**

At this point in this factual consideration of Mr. Rankin’s career brief space should be given to his rather remarkably developed publicity sense. As a successful headline hunter he is second to nobody in the rough and tumble game of politics.

Early in his career he evolved an infallible publicity technique. He discovered that if he attacked as stridently as possible a newsworthy person or objective, he would achieve the front page. He also learned the diversionist technique in the face of adverse publicity.

He had been in Congress but a short time when he put his publicity sense to the test. On the floor of the house he made a violent verbal attack on the venerable and respected New York Republican, Ogden Mills, calling him vile names. He landed unerringly on the front page of the national press, and was no longer an obscure congressman from an unknown district.

At another time he let fly with a glass inkwell at an opponent in a committee hearing, injuring him, but again achieving national publicity.

He recently achieved even more sensational publicity in some sections of the American press by accusing Secretary of War Stimson and Under-secretary Patterson of promoting communism in the United States army.

When he made a move opposing generous financial reimbursements to veterans, after nearly a million Negro soldiers became eligible for such benefits, and said he would not encourage faking and stalling on the part of veterans, he was rebuked by top American Legion officials. He then hastily plumped for an even more generous veterans unemployment insurance bill, heading off the bad publicity, and reaping a crop of favorable newspaper space.

When he was exposed in his attempt to perpetuate bad conditions in veterans’ hospitals, he used his adroit publicist’s instinct to turn the press tide by the announcement that he had discovered Hollywood was “in the control of aliens and alien-minded persons” and that moving pictures were being used as a part of a sinister plot to overturn the government of the United States.

**What Mr. Rankin Says and Does in Congress**

An analysis of Mr. Rankin’s activities in Congress indicates a rather definite pattern. His chief motivations seem to be anti-labor, anti-Semitic, anti-Negro, and anti-United Nations. Like most of his colleagues representing similar political and social
viewpoints, he was somewhat careful after the United States actually entered the war. But he maintained with some consistency the thesis that America’s involvement in war was the result of a plot by “international bankers, Jews and communists.” Some of his statements on the floor of the house have closely paralleled the Nazi line of the late Dr. Joseph Goebbels.

For many years Mr. Rankin has been emphasizing first one and then another of these primary convictions.

Since the ending of the war, he has been pressing hard for legislation authorizing the organization of large numbers of discharged war veterans into a national strike-breaking agency. As chairman of the House veterans committee he has proposed a measure exempting discharged service men from joining a union, retaining membership in a union or paying union dues as a condition of employment, regardless of closed shop or preferred shop contracts. On October 2, 1945, Mr. Rankin said in Washington: “If Congress will pass this bill, and see that our young men who are no longer needed in the service are discharged immediately, every strike will be broken overnight.”

Mr. Rankin has long pointed with pride to the fact that in his district in Mississippi there are no unions. He has steadfastly opposed all wage and hour legislation.

On May 16, 1941, Representative Rankin allowed the use of his mail franking privilege for the distribution of an article attacking the loyalty of English-born American citizens who believed that England deserved all possible help in her gallant, and at that time, lone fight against Nazi Germany. This bit of anti-British propaganda was ordered by George Hill, secretary of Representative Hamilton Fish, and indicted on two counts by the Federal Grand Jury October 24, 1941, for perjury in swearing that he had no connection with George Sylvester Viereck, the registered German propaganda agent in Washington. The propaganda leaflet was paid for by Hamilton Fish.

A few weeks later Mr. Rankin was suggesting that England make a negotiated peace with Hitler. On June 4, 1941, he said, as reported in the Congressional Record: “Mr. Speaker, Wall Street and a little group of our international Jewish brethren are still attempting to harass the President of the United States, and the Congress of the United States into plunging us into the European war. . . . These international bankers are so afraid this peace movement now going on in England, now going on behind the lines, might take root, and this catastrophe be brought to a close before they can get us into it that on yesterday they held a rally in Wall Street, and bankers made a plea to that effect.

“If Great Britain can get terms of peace that will leave her Empire and her Navy intact, we ought not to stand in her way.”

Congressman Michael Edelstein of New York, arose and rebuked Mr. Rankin for his reference to Jews, and pointed out that Hitler had begun his career in Germany with similar remarks about Jews and international bankers. After his passionate speech in defense of American ideals of tolerance, Representative Edelstein collapsed and died on the Capitol steps.

In an editorial on June 6, 1941, The New York Herald Tribune said: “The death of Representative Michael Edelstein, after his protest on the floor of the house, against
such criticism of the Jews as has marred recent utterances in Congress, lends tragic importance to the message he sought to convey. The immediate cause of his protest, the slurring reference by Representative John E. Rankin to ‘a little group of our international Jewish brethren,’ may sound innocent enough. Doubtless, Representative Rankin would be prompt to assert that he had no intention of stirring up animosity against a whole racial or religious group in the United States. . . . But in that direction lies intolerance, division, descent to the Nazi level of raw prejudice and ignorant hate.”

On December 7, 1943, Representative Rankin told the house of representatives he had received many protests against his substitute measure on the soldier vote bill. He said a large part of them came from Brooklyn. “Let us take a glance at the names,” he said. “Here is one from Mrs. Lillian Kapnik — from Mr. Julius Reisman — from Mr. William Liebowitz — from Mrs. K. L. Lowenstein — from Ethel Siegal, Mrs. Rothmann, Miss Pearl Press, Ethel Surwitz, Hirsch Zibman, Mrs. Rubenstein — all these people are opposed to my bill.”

Mr. Rankin’s Mental Processes

I. F. Stone, the Washington correspondent, reproached Mr. Rankin for singling out Jewish names. On November 18, 1943, Mr. Rankin answered Stone by announcing that his name was not I. F. Stone, but Isadore Feinstein.

On this same day he referred in the house, to a group of women who called on him to protest his bill denying the right of franchise to all American fighting men. Mr. Rankin said: “If I am any judge, they are communists, pure and simple; probably more simple than pure. They looked like foreigners to me. I never saw such a wilderness of noses in my life.”

On February 21, 1944, Mr. Rankin, speaking on the floor of the house of representatives of the United States, referred to Walter Winchell as “the communistic little kike.”

On March 29, 1943, coming to the defense of a man indicted for sedition, Representative Rankin attacked the United States Department of Justice. He said: “Ask yourself if the White Gentiles of this country have no rights left that the department of justice is bound to respect.” (Congressional Record, p. A1583).

Mr. Rankin has made numerous attacks on the Fair Employment Practices Commission, charging that “niggers and Jews” are usurping employment in the United States. On February 7, 1945, he praised the American Dental Association for anti-Semitic action, and said on the floor of the house: “I wonder if the gentlemen know that 50 per cent of the doctors that get on the civil service roll are Jews, and 60 per cent of the doctors we are compelled to accept in our veterans hospitals are Jews. Remember that the White Gentiles of this country have some rights.” (C.R.p. 903)

We believe enough has been quoted from the Congressional record to give objective appraisal of Mr. Rankin’s mental processes.
Some Interesting Parallels

RANKIN
Statement inserted in Congressional Record March 27, 1942:
“Resolved, that any laws or parts of laws setting a limitation on the number of hours a person may work be repealed, and that there shall be no additional pay for overtime work or for work on legal holidays.”

RANKIN
Quoted from “Defender” Magazine, July, 1942:
“The radical, communistic elements that are trying to browbeat the Red Cross into taking the labels off the blood that is being furnished to the Army and Navy for our boys, so no one could tell whether it came from a white or colored person, are spreading the false propaganda that some of this blood is already being sent out unmarked by the Red Cross.”

RANKIN
Quoted from Los Angeles Examiner July 10, 1945:
“Hollywood is a hotbed of subversive activities” . . . “Hollywood is the red citadel” . . . “We are out to expose those elements insidiously trying to spread subversive propaganda, poisoning the minds of children, distorting the history of our country, and discrediting Christian civilization.”

HITLER
January 30, 1936:
“Since we abolished the corrupt Marxist-Jewish labor organizations, our German workers are no longer agitated by materialistic concern about hours and wages. They work to achieve their inevitable destiny as the master race, and for the greater glory of the Fatherland. Their reward is strength through joy.”

HITLER
Adolph Hitler, speaking in Nuremberg, April 15, 1934:
“I bring you the word of our holy German blood. . . . I become even more fanatical in my hatred when I remember that after the Fatherland was betrayed by Jews and Communists, our enemies billeted among us their black soldiery, born half apes. . . .

HITLER
“At the moment, Jews in certain countries may be fomenting hatred under the protection of the press, of the films and radio, of the theatre, of literature—all of which they control.”

GERALD L. K. SMITH
“The entrenched enemy of this community is financed mainly by the alien-minded Communist Russian Jews of Hollywood.”

Who Are Mr. Rankin’s Friends?

GERALD L. K. SMITH is one. On July 3, 1945, in a special bulletin, this man said of Mr. Rankin: “You have, of course, seen the newspaper accounts of the plan to investigate the traitors of Hollywood who are attempting to use the great film industry to undermine our American government. Be sure to write a letter to Congressman John E. Rankin, House Office Building, Washington, D.C., congratulating him and his committee.
on this planned investigation. He will be interested in hearing about our big meetings and crusading fight here in California in defense of Christian Americanism. Mr. Rankin is a great Christian and a great American.”

Der Deutscher Weckruft Und Beobachter, Dr. Joseph Goebbels’ newspaper in America, was another admirer of Mr. Rankin until it was suppressed. On June 12, 1941, this newspaper said editorially: “It is significant that the race question is penetrating into the House. Congressman Rankin said: ‘Wall street and a little group of our international Jewish brethren are still attempting to harass the President of the United States and Congress into war...’”

Father Charles E. Coughlin, radio priest banned from the air in 1942, and leader of the Christian Front, was an admirer of Mr. Rankin. In the April 24, 1941, edition of the Congressional Record, Mr. Rankin attacked Walter Lippman as “an international Jew... he seems to be trying to browbeat the President of the United States into plunging this country into the European war.” In the May 12, 1941, edition of “Social Justice,” Father Coughlin commends Rankin and says: “Naturally we quite agree with Mr. Rankin’s observations anent international financiers and their efforts to drag this country into war to save the gold standard. We have been called anti-Semitic for saying the same thing.”

C. Leon De Aryan, twice under indictment for seditious activities, comments favorably and frequently in his weekly paper, “Broom,” on the activities of Mr. Rankin. On March 27, 1944, he says: “Mr. Rankin has stated outside the chamber that an investigation by Dies of Walter Winchell and associates will uncover a gigantic conspiracy to overthrow this government, to throw out Congress and set up bureaucratic controls.” On March 13, 1944, he quotes approvingly Mr. Rankin’s description of Walter Winchell: “That little communistic kike... a scavenger who stooped to as base a level as that of the loathsome ghoul at night, who invades the sacred precinct of a tomb, goes down into the grave of a buried child, and with reeking fingers...” etc.

Court Asher, under two indictments for sedition against the government of the United States in war time, is another friend of Mr. Rankin. In his “The X-Ray,” February 5, 1944, he speaks admiringly of Mr. Rankin’s racial attack on Walter Winchell, and says: “Winchell, the Jew stink bomb of the air, is thin-skinned. Winchell made a feeble attempt in his screeching Sheeney voice to besmirch the Honorable John E. Rankin in his weekly Sunday night tirade against Christian Americans. ... Is it not strange that there is not one iota of any anti-nationality complained of except anti-Jewish? WHY, Winchell? Why?”

An Unanswered Challenge

WILLIAM KULLGREN, indicted twice by the federal government for sedition, is another admirer of Mr. Rankin. In his July 1, 1943, letter to his followers, he says: “There are many fine men in Congress, but they do not get enough backing from the people who send them there. ... In the house we have Representatives Rankin, Cox, Fish, Hoffman and many others.”
Gerald P. Winrod, the Kansas fundamentalist preacher who praised Hitler, and who has attacked evolutionists, Catholics and Jews as "the anti-Christ," is another friend of Mr. Rankin. Before he went on trial for sedition in Washington, The Rev. Winrod published in his paper, "Know the Truth": "Men in public life like Senators Taft, Nye, Wheeler, Walsh, Reynolds ... representatives like Hoffman, Lamberton, Woodruff, Shafer, Fish, Rankin, Cox and Dies ... private citizens like Elisabeth Dilling, Col. E. N. Sanctuary and Rev. Gerald B. Winrod, are being falsely SMEARED."

William Dudley Pelley, serving a 15 year sentence for criminal sedition, approved warmly of Mr. Rankin's policies. Shortly before he was locked up, Mr. Pelley wrote in his publication, "New Liberator": "Representative John E. Rankin of Mississippi charged from the floor of the house that the NLRB is engaged in furthering communist activities. Excerpts from his speech reveal precisely what we have surmised, viz., that the Wagner Act ... was conceived for the purpose of perfecting a governmental instrument to destroy legitimate business and thus aid the Jewish Reds." In Germany Mr. Pelley was regarded as an authority on American affairs, and his publications were advertised as mirroring U. S. public opinion.

Elmer J. Garner, Charles B. Hudson and others who have been charged by the United States government with seditious activity are friends of Mr. Rankin. They distributed a speech made by Mr. Rankin and published in the Congressional Record July 1, 1943. Following is an excerpt from Mr. Rankin's speech:

"Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New York (Mr. Celler) said a moment ago that they ought to seize the farmers' meat and cattle in order to feed the people of New York. Now, if he will send that gang of communist Jews and Negroes that came down here yesterday and tried to storm the house restaurant and went around arm in arm with each other here in this Capitol, if he will just send them down into Texas, or out into the West, or anywhere else in the cattle growing belt, to do the seizing of these cattle, they will not have so many people in New York."

Mr. Rankin has not answered the recent statement of Representative Adolf J. Sabath of New York, chairman of the house rules committee, that he has refrained from turning the attention of the so-called Rankin committee to "outstanding publicists, propagandists and rabble rousers such as former Senator Robert Reynolds, Gerald L. K. Smith, Joe McWilliams, Pelley and others who have been cooperating with them, many of whom have been indicted, some convicted, and others who should have been prosecuted for un-American, subversive and seditious activities." This unanswered challenge was published in the Congressional Record of July 17, 1945.

Mr. Rankin's Record vs. The Hollywood Record

We have examined as objectively as possible the record of Representative Rankin, who a few days before finding the United States Department of War to be a "red bulwark," charged that Hollywood was the "red citadel" of America, dominated by "aliens and alien-minded people plotting to overthrow the government of the United States."
We would like to insert at this point the results of the recent survey of the Hollywood motion picture industry made by Representative Samuel Dickstein of New York, chairman of the house committee on immigration and naturalization, and Mr. Dickstein’s relevant comment.

Representative Dickstein and his aides spent ten days in Hollywood making a factual survey of the studios and checking up on Mr. Rankin’s “alien” charge. It was found that the percentage of aliens in the studios is one half of one per cent. Among actors the percentage of aliens is one and one half per cent. It is studio policy to insist that all alien workers take out citizenship papers as soon as possible. Commented Representative Dickstein: “The charge that Hollywood is under subversive alien influence is propaganda spread by Mr. Rankin’s so-called un-American Affairs Committee and other hate-mongers.”

Incidentally, when Mr. Rankin on July 17, 1945, said on the floor of the house that “alien-minded communistic enemies of Christianity are trying to take over the motion picture industry and spread their un-American propaganda as well as their loathsome, lying, immoral and anti-Christian filth before the eyes of your children in every community in America,” — when Mr. Rankin said this, he neglected to name the subversive pictures the “anti-Christian” Hollywood producers and studio workers have produced or have in production.

We would now like to present briefly a few statistical facts about Hollywood and its war record:

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average yearly GI audience</td>
<td>534,250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feature picture prints provided by industry to Army Overseas Motion Picture Service up to July 7, 1945</td>
<td>40,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short subject prints sent overseas from Hollywood studios</td>
<td>32,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average yearly screenings of Hollywood films for GI audiences</td>
<td>1,277,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion picture industry employees in armed services from Hollywood studios</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of service men entertained yearly at Hollywood Canteen headed by Bette Davis and operated by 42 motion picture industry guilds and unions</td>
<td>912,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of service men Hollywood Guild Canteens provides annually with free beds, meals, swimming pool and recreation</td>
<td>438,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of motion picture theatres showing short subject films each week on war loans, blood bank donations, and various other patriotic home front issues</td>
<td>16,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training films made in Hollywood studios for armed forces</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal appearances since Pearl Harbor by Hollywood entertainers before service audiences</td>
<td>53,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollywood performers engaged in Hollywood Victory Committee tours to entertain armed services</td>
<td>4,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollywood stars who have played the HVC Foxhole Circuit, often under fire</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollywood players who have made national War Bond tours</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollywood players who have made individual War Bond appearances and broadcasts</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentary and short subject films contributed to war agencies by top writers through Hollywood Writers Mobilization</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio scripts contributed to government departments and war agencies by Hollywood Writers Mobilization</td>
<td>1,050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hollywood contribution to 1944 local War Chest .................. $ 1,170,407
Hollywood contribution to 1944 Red Cross Drive .................. $557,379
Investment of Hollywood motion picture people in war bonds to July 1, 1945 ........ $107,000,000
Approximate amount of War Bonds sold by Hollywood players ................ $4,000,000,000
Average Hollywood motion picture industry contribution per subscriber to Red Cross $48
(This compares with a national average contribution per subscriber of $5.70)
Average Hollywood motion picture industry contribution per subscriber to War Chest Fund .......................... $30
(This compares with average per subscriber contribution of $11.20 in Los Angeles area, with high Hollywood figure included in and raising Los Angeles average)

Who Are Hollywood’s Friends?

Here are brief quotes from a few of them:

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, writing from the White House to Walter Wanger, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on February 22, 1943, said: “It is a matter of deep satisfaction to me, as it must be to you, that we have succeeded in turning the tremendous power of the motion picture industry into an effective war instrument without the slightest resort to the totalitarian methods of our enemies. We have preserved, and shall continue to preserve, the right of free expression which is so distinctly the mark of the democratic way of life. . . . In total war, motion pictures, like all other human endeavor, have an important part to play in the struggle for freedom and the survival of democracy. Those who achieve highly in motion pictures at this time have contributed greatly toward that end.”

General Olmstead of the U. S. Army Signal Corps, March 4, 1943: “My thanks to the committees, instructors and studios who so successfully conducted the training schools of motion picture and still photography from which the army has secured so many well trained photographers.”

Frank O. Walker, writing as postmaster-general of the United States to the War Activities Committee of the Motion Picture Industry October 10, 1944: “I take great pleasure in sending you the enclosed press announcement of the issue of a three-cent stamp to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of Motion Pictures and the impressive record of the function of Motion Pictures in the war effort.

“It is true that the Motion Pictures have taken the finest actors and the best plays to the crossroads and the villages of the world; that they have become predominant as an instrument of education and outstanding in the development of culture, bringing to the peoples of the world a visualization of the life and habits and customs of one another. . . . But I am pleased to inform you that the Postoffice Department decided on this recognition of Motion Pictures at this time because of their splendid contribution to the war effort, both from a technical and a morale standpoint.”

Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr., in a telegram to the members of the motion picture industry assembled at an Academy dinner: “Your annual dinner gives me opportunity to express to the motion picture industry the sincere appreciation of the Treasury for the splendid patriotic assistance given us in the promotion of war bond and stamp sales this past year.”
The late Frank Knox, while secretary of the navy, sent this telegram to the motion picture industry: "I would like to express the Navy's appreciation of the splendid talent and efforts of every member of the motion picture industry from the newest boot to the oldest hand whether ashore or at sea. Men of the naval establishment look forward to the films you make. That you are all continuing to do fine and important jobs under the restriction imposed by war is a tribute to the ability and ingenuity of your profession."

These are a few samples, chosen at random, of tens of thousands of letters on file in motion picture industry offices thanking Hollywood for its contribution to the victory, and to the building of a happier and more secure world.

Hollywood can be proud both of its friends and its enemies.

In Conclusion

We believe this information will be important to any rational, calm person who wants to sit down and analyze Mr. Rankin's record and his charges, and compare them with Hollywood's record, and the facts.

We think that sane, wholesome America will be able to measure correctly the meaning of these doctrines. In fact, as between Mr. Rankin and Hollywood, we believe America, as mirrored in its respectable press, has already chosen. The Louisville Courier-Journal, one of America's great and traditional newspapers, said editorially on July 7, 1945: "Everything that the judicious citizen feared when John Rankin shoved through the House a permanent successor to the smear-and-run Dies committee seems about to come to pass . . . ."

"For one thing, we are informed that we may look for a sally of inquisition into Hollywood, in search of a deep red plot to overthrow our liberties by a subtle manipulation of our entertainment, and we cannot help recalling that Mr. Dies, in his hey-day, also prowled into that tinsel preserve, coming up with little more than the scalp of Shirley Temple, then aged 10.

"So we are likely to be going through all this again, and the very prospect makes understandable the action of Chairman Hart in quitting. Mr. Hart lays it to his poor health, and we suspect he is honest about it, perhaps to the extent that his stomach turns at unpalatable fare.

"It looks as if this would be a particularly good time to apply a closed season on the hot-eyed sport of witch hunting."

The San Francisco Chronicle, venerable Republican pillar of the West Coast, says in a recent editorial: "In charge of Representative Rankin of Mississippi, such committee activity (investigating un-Americanism) can serve no useful purpose. He has shown himself to be intemperate, injudicious, partial and prejudiced. Even when he has been right, he has destroyed the value of his position by his violent and ill-judged attitudes."

On July 22, 1945, Adolph J. Sabath, New York representative in congress and chairman of the house rules committee arose on the floor of the house to speak on Mr. Rankin's demand that Secretary of War Stimson and Under-secretary of War Patterson resign. It was Mr. Rankin's contention that the war department heads had been collaborating with a communist plot to indoctrinate the United States Army. Said Representative
Sabath, in a statement that seems to sum up tersely some phases of Mr. Rankin's career: “I regret exceedingly that the gentleman from Mississippi . . . takes every chance . . . to put into the Record statements that unfortunately seem to follow the policy and program of Hitler.”

Postscript

We contemplated originally including a picture of John Elliott Rankin in this portfolio, so that you will know him. However, his picture has been printed in many publications. It will hardly be necessary here. By the sound of his voice, and by the voices of his friends, you will be able to identify him.

In conclusion, we should like to point out that American democracy, which has done so much to end the “thought police” system in Japan and the anti-intelligence system in Germany, should not long remain quiescent in the face of an effort to transplant those same systems to our America.
Hollywood Independent Citizens Committee
of the Arts, Sciences and Professions

POSTMASTER: If undeliverable for any reason, notify sender, stating reason, on Form 3547, postage for which is guaranteed.