Messrs. Dewey and Ives have bravely issued a statement in New York attacking Gerald L. K. Smith and Senator Bilbo.

The spectacle of Dewey and Ives mounting their gallant steeds and challenging Gerald Smith and Senator Bilbo to mortal combat in New York is an edifying and inspiring one. However, when we examine their list of enemies we look in vain for the name of John E. Rankin of Mississippi.

Bilbo is merely a Mississippi Senator. Rankin is more than a Mississippi Congressman. By vote of the Republican representatives in the House (including 80% of the Republican Congressmen voting from New York), Rankin was placed in control of the so-called Committee on Un-American Activities and was thus clothed with the power to harass, intimidate and persecute his fellow citizens.

Dewey did not raise his voice in protest when the Committee was formed, nor has he protested against any of the vicious and menacing activities of the Committee, even when directed against citizens of the State of New York.

There was no objection from Dewey when Rankin called the Ku Klux Klan "an American institution" and refused on that ground to permit it to be investigated by the Committee.

The Republican Party cannot escape its responsibility for the creation and continued existence of the Rankin Committee by making high-sounding, but meaningless, attacks on Senator Bilbo, who has not been armed by the Republicans, as has Rankin, with authority to enter the State of New York and harass its citizens.
Nor will it avail the Republicans to point out that Rankin is a Democrat. While he nominally bears the Democratic label his voting record during the past few years has been almost identically the same as that of the majority of Republicans in the House. It is not necessary here to determine whether the Republican Party has gone Rankin or Rankin has gone Republican.