

Dilling Divorce Trial Sizzles in Chicago Court

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'Red Network' Author
Asks Winchell Be
Declared in Contempt

CHICAGO, March 23 (C.T. P.S.)—In a tumultuous court session during which two spectators were ejected and Judge Rudolph Desort threatened to clear the room, another round was fought today in the Dilling divorce case.

Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling, author of "The Red Network" and crusader against un-American activities, spent more than an hour on the stand under cross-examination by Maurice T. Weinschenk, attorney for her husband, Albert W. Dilling, attorney-engineer, who is opposing her motion to vacate a temporary injunction which on February 27 froze her bank accounts.

Contempt Ruling Asked

At the close of the stormy session, Theodore W. Miller, attorney for Mrs. Dilling, filed a counter petition to Dilling's divorce suit, asking for a rule to show cause why Dilling, Weinschenk, Walter Winchell, and Howard Mayer, Chicago public relations counsel, should not be held in contempt of court.

The four already have been named in a million-dollar damage action by Mrs. Dilling. Miller said after court that if Winchell refuses to answer subpoenas served on him, criminal libel action will be started so that he may be extradited.

Mrs. Dilling issued a statement, charging that Winchell has aligned himself with communism by distributing Red literature to Members of Congress, and declaring he should be forced to resign the lieutenant commander's commission he holds in the Navy.

"Only Contemptible"

"It would be a mistake to send Winchell into active service," she said. "In print and on the air, Winchell is only contemptible, whereas a coward in active service would be a dangerous thing."

The hearing began with Weinschenk attacking previous statements by Mrs. Dilling that she owns the family home in suburban Kenilworth, and the Rush Creek farms in McHenry county which she claimed as her legal residence in a divorce suit she has filed against Dilling.

She insisted she has spent a substantial part of her time at the farm and mentioned cleaning the house and performing other duties there.

"Do you mean you cleaned the house or cleaned your husband," asked the attorney.

"I mean the house," she snapped. "I'll leave it up to you to clean my husband, Mr. Weinschenk."

"My name is Weinschenk," the lawyer shouted. "I'll ask the court to instruct Lizzie to stop mispronouncing my name."

Shortly afterward, Weinschenk in an effort to establish Mrs. Dilling's income during the last several years, insisted on knowing the names of contributors to her patriotic research bureau.

Arguing Couple Ousted

"I will not give their names because if I did they would be persecuted just as I am. I can tell you, however, that none of them came from the B'nai B'rith, Mr. Weinschenk."

"You're still for Hitler, aren't you?" Weinschenk shouted.

"You're not going to smear me as a Hitlerite," Mrs. Dilling replied. "I know your tieup with the smear gang. I know all about you. Your uncle was killed in the St. Valentine's Day massacre in 1929."

(An Albert R. Weinschenk was killed in the gang massacre but Weinschenk said the slain man was no relative of his.)

Judge Desort at this point ordered that a man and a woman who had begun arguing be turned out of the courtroom.

When court adjourned, Mrs. Dilling was escorted from the room by her daughter, Elizabeth, 16, her son Kirkpatrick, 24, and more than 100 women who have been associated with her in her patriotic activities. The hearing will be resumed Thursday.