

Enraged Dilling Fires Lawyer Amid 3 More Charges of Contempt

CHICAGO, April 22 (A. P.).—The Dilling divorce case went into another loop-the-loop today when Albert W. Dilling fired his lawyer. He asked Superior Judge Rudolph Desort for 15 days in which

to find a substitute, but before the proceedings could be adjourned three more contempt-of-court charges were shoved into the record.

Dilling, a consulting engineer and plaintiff in the Chicago phase of the case, informed the court he had discharged his counsel, Maurice T. Weinschenk, for filing a petition which Dilling said falsely linked the name of his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling, with pro-Axis propagandists.

'CRUSADE' LEADER

Mrs. Dilling runs the Patriotic Research Bureau, headquarters for a busy isolationist movement before the war, and last year she led what she called "a mothers' crusade" to Washington to oppose the Lend-Lease Bill.

The petition, filed yesterday, sought an order for Mrs. Dilling to produce records showing any payments she had received since 1935 "from any American or foreign person or persons who were acting for any Axis government in spreading pro-Axis propaganda and information in the United States."

'DAMNABLE LIE'

Dilling disowned the petition as "a damnable lie" and told Judge Desort

the first he knew or it was when he read the newspapers.

Today's hearing was to have been a continuation of the lively proceedings through which Mrs. Dilling hoped to have dissolved an injunction tying up her bank accounts. Before it could begin, however, William J. Grace, attorney and former chairman of the Citizens Keep America Out of War Committee, appeared and asked leave to file a petition that Dilling and Weinschenk be held in contempt of court.

LAWYERS HURL DEMANDS

Grace told Judge Desort that his name was scurrilously used in Weinschenk's petition and demanded it be expunged. Theodore V. Miller, Mrs. Dilling's attorney, in turn demanded that the whole petition be expunged and that Weinschenk be held in contempt for his conduct throughout the case.

It was then that Dilling announced the firing of his lawyer. Weinschenk, appearing to be the calmest of those standing before the bench, stated: "Whatever I did, I did on my own responsibility and for the best interests of my client."

Judge Desort received the contempt charges — the sixth, seventh and eighth — but said rulings on all matters would be reserved. Then he decreed a breathing spell until noon, May 1.