

# Both Winrod, Pelley Sought Presidency Trial Records Show

By CARTER BROOKE JONES.

The Rev. Gerald Winrod and William Dudley Pelley, defendants in the sedition case, were disclosed in the record of the trial today as both aspirants for the presidency in recent years.

N. J. Roccaforte of Houston, Tex., a Government witness, who worked for Winrod for three years, testified late yesterday that, when the Wichita (Kans.) clergyman was running for the Senate in 1938, he said that if elected he would use the office "as a springboard for the White House," adding a promise to make "the Jewish question" a national issue.

"I object," interposed Albert W. Dilling, a defense attorney during the interrogation of Mr. Roccaforte regarding Winrod's ultimate ambition, "on the ground that Dr. Winrod and Mr. Pelley were rival candidates for President and could not have been fellow conspirators, as the Government charges."

Chief Justice Edward C. Eicher overruled the objection.

## Discussed Florida Shooting.

Questioned by Chief Prosecutor O. John Rogge, Mr. Roccaforte testified that he once discussed with Winrod the attempted assassination of President Roosevelt when he was President-elect in Florida and Mayor Anton Cermak of Chicago suffered a fatal wound.

"Winrod said," the witness added, "that it was too bad some one else didn't come along and complete the job."

Mr. Roccaforte described a trip he and Winrod and several associates in the defendant's publishing business made to Washington in 1937, when Winrod tried to launch a news letter from the Capital. The witness said they had lunch with James True of Arlington, Va., a former defendant, and the discussion centered around a weapon called a "kike killer" which True was to invent.

"Mr. True," the witness added, "expressed the desire some day to put it in the hands of every Gentile in the Nation."

Mr. Roccaforte said he and Winrod made several other trips from Wichita to Washington and Winrod would register at hotels as "Mr. Burton" his middle name.

## Tells of Kansas Campaign.

During the Kansas senatorial campaign, the witness said, he was a combination advance man and bodyguard, and on trips with Winrod always went armed. Winrod and other members of the party also carried pistols, Mr. Roccaforte told the jury.

Twice when the rumor got out that a Government investigator was coming, the witness said, Winrod had his personal files carted away until the scare was over.

Mr. Roccaforte testified that the literature which Winrod received regularly included World Service, German propaganda magazine, and material from True and from several defendants, including Robert E. Edmondson, George E. Deatherage, Eugene N. Sanctuary and Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling. Some of this, he said, was redistributed by Winrod.

The witness, who described himself as a former barber who became a commercial printer, specializing in religious literature, told of Winrod's plans to establish the National Christian Union, which failed to come off.