

Mrs. Bethune Back For Sedition Probe

Missing Witness Reappears, Says She Was Working on a Book and a Play

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Mrs. Ann Bethune, missing witness who arranged distribution of Representative Clare E. Hoffman's "Roosevelt is a Judas" speech, reappeared yesterday and declared she was willing to go before the special grand jurors on Axis agents when their session is resumed Friday.

A Nation-wide search for Mrs. Bethune was ordered several days ago.

Attorney General Biddle's squad of special prosecutors investigating sedition here said they believed Mrs. Bethune could give valuable information about the financing and control of some of the widely scattered defeatist publications under suspicion.

Deputy United States marshals had tried in vain to reach Mrs. Bethune at her apartment at the LaSalle. She had left no forwarding address, the staff said, and her mail was accumulating. It was suggested that she had come to harm.

Working on Play and Book

"I wanted to be undisturbed," Mrs. Bethune told The Post yesterday. "I have been working on a play which has a national aspect, as well as on a book. I find it impossible to concentrate on such work if I am disturbed by telephones and mail and such things.

"So I went to New York. My friend, Mrs. Julia Wheelock, of the American Legion national board, had invited me to stay in my apartment, but did not arrive. Had she done so she would have been able to give my New York address.

"As it was, I knew nothing of what was happening here, until another friend wrote me that it was reported in The Post that I was 'wanted.' I was on the train in 30 minutes, and got back Saturday, but did not receive a subpoena until yesterday.

"Certainly I know Mr. Hoffman, as I know many of our fine Congressmen, and I arranged for distribution of his speech against 'Union Now.' I am against 'Union Now,' my ancestors fought in the Revolution.

Decided Against Seeing Hoffman

"I don't want to talk about it. This grand jury may ask me about distribution of the speech, and I don't want to talk about it to anyone else. I was going up to the Capitol to see Mr. Hoffman, but I decided against it."

Among those who distributed the "Roosevelt is a Judas" speech and were being questioned before the grand jurors about the time Mrs. Bethune was subpoenaed were ~~Charles~~ B. Winrod, publisher of The Defender magazine in Wichita, Kans., and E. J. Garner, 78, editor of the weekly paper, ~~Publicity~~, in Wichita. Garner and his son, James F. Garner, were indicted Saturday for criminal conspiracy and 10 counts of sedition.

"I don't know them," said Mrs. Bethune, "and I don't know how anybody could have gotten the idea

that I was in Wichita when I was in New York."

The special prosecutors—William Power Maloney, Lieut. Edward J. Hickey, jr., U. S. N. (j.g.) and John T. M. Reddan—will resume the sedition investigation of Social Justice magazine Friday, as well as question Mrs. Bethune. The Attorney General conferred at length yesterday with Maloney, Hickey and the chief of the criminal division, Wendell Berge, who is guiding the Nation-wide sedition inquiry.

Called to testify Friday are E. Perrin Schwartz, nominal editor of Social Justice, although Charles E. Coughlin has admitted "full responsibility"—two employees of the magazine, Frank Traznick and Bernard O'Connor, and two women who work in Coughlin's offices in the Church of the Little Flower, where he is pastor, Miss Marie Rhodes and Miss Eugenia ~~Smith~~.

"Accused of sedition by Attorney General Biddle, Social Justice gave up its second-class mail franchise without a fight Monday, but the prosecutors declared the investigation would go on in the courts until the last guilty man was dealt with.