

Social Justice Editor Called By Grand Jury

T-H 4/13/42
E. Perrin Schwartz

Due to Testify on Magazine Today

Hearings on the background of the magazine Social Justice, formerly operated by Father Charles E. Coughlin, the "radio priest," were scheduled today before the special grand jury investigating Axis propaganda.

Issuance of a summons for E. Perrin Schwartz, of Royal Oak, Mich., now editor of Social Justice, indicated that an investigation into the magazine's background, which was recently announced by Attorney General Francis Biddle, was under way. The summons calls for Schwartz's appearance today.

Won't Contest Charge

Tsutoma Obana, former secretary to the Japanese Committee on Trade and Information, yesterday pleaded "nolo contendere" before Justice T. Alan Goldsborough in U. S. District Court to a conspiracy count linking him with others in a charge of attempting to cover up the trade body as an alien propaganda center. The plea indicates intention of not contesting the charge.

Obana, who had already pleaded guilty to four counts in an indictment charging violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, is in District Jail as an enemy alien without bail privileges.

Government investigators said the trade committee controlled a \$175,000 fund contributed by the Japanese Consulate in San Francisco and by Japanese firms and businessmen, with the purpose of spreading propaganda against China and favoring Japan.

Editor Pleads Guilty

Ralph Townsend, associate editor of Scribner's Commentator, has pleaded guilty to indictment counts charging failure to register properly as a foreign agent. A charge against him of conspiracy in connection with alleged failure to report properly the trade committee's purposes, is not to be pressed, according to Prosecutors Albert E. Arent and Arthur B. Caldwell.

Frederick Vincent Williams and David Warren Ryder, San Francisco publicity men, are scheduled for trial May 11 on the conspiracy count. S. Takeuchi and K. Takahashi, officials of Japanese commercial firms formerly operated in San Francisco, were charged, but are now in Japan. Two Japanese consul generals, also accused of participating in the propaganda set-up, were not indicted.

David Baxter, self-styled chancellor of the Social Republic Society of America, who was a witness before the special grand jury on propaganda last week, has been recalled for tomorrow.