

Omaha Editor Jailed in Axis Agent Probe

Refuses to Tell Who Printed Seditious Card Mailed With Hoffman's Speech

By Dillard Stokes
Post Staff Writer

Representative Clare E. Hoffman (Republican), of Michigan, has supplied reprints of his "Roosevelt Is a Judas" speech to an anti-British editor in Omaha, Nebr.

This editor, Charles B. Hudson, mailed out the Hoffman speech in the same envelope with a card so seditious that he added a statement that it was not intended for soldiers.

Hudson yesterday refused to tell the special grand jury on Axis agents who printed the card. Special Prosecutor William Power Maloney haled Hudson before the District Court and Justice Jennings Bailey sent him to jail for three months for contempt of court.

Ordered 145,000 Reprints
Hoffman's speech was titled, "Don't Haul Down the Stars and Stripes." He made it in the House on January 27 and January 30 and ordered 145,000 reprints from the Government Printing Office, with 95,000 franked envelopes to carry them through the mails postage-free. In the same way, Hoffman's franks carried 30,000 copies of an isolationist speech a year ago for the Nazi propaganda organization headed by George Sylvester Viereck, the German agent recently

jailed here.
Hudson is the editor of "America in Danger!" a Jew-baiting, Roosevelt-hating little bulletin which flaunts the slogan, "End the War Quickly." In three of his recent issues, Hudson has offered to sell the Hoffman speeches in quantity, at the rate of 28 for 10 cents. And he has delivered. Washington purchasers got more than 100 from him.

In the same envelope with one of his bulletins, Hudson sent a subscriber a free copy of the Hoffman speech. There also was a card with the caption, "West Africa Is Not Iceland—It's Anything But A Nice Land!"

"Not Intended for Soldiers"
The card began, "So they want to send our boys to Africa. . . ."
After some text, which will not be quoted in The Post, the card had a second caption: "V is for Victory."
Then came more text, ending with the statement, "We think they're all Vertiginous Vagrants* (a bunch of dizzy bums*)." **H.H.K.*

Filling the rest of the card was a map of half the world, with a statement beneath which gave Hudson's own estimate of its character. This statement was:

(This card is intended only for Americans in possession of their full civic rights. It is not intended for the armed forces of the U. S. A.)

While the German agent, Viereck, was on trial here, it came out that the British censorship in Bermuda has stopped a letter in which he

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assured his masters in the Wilhelmstrasse that: "Ingenious use was made of the 'V' symbol in a card. The 'V' card has been very effective."

The roll call of all those who got the reprints in bulk from Hoffman is something that only the dour Michigan isolationist himself can reveal, in full. It is known that Hudson is only one of them, that the list includes at least a dozen others.

One of these is Hermann D. Kissenger, a Kansas City lawyer who was a frequent contributor to the Bund newspaper, Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter. Kissenger was arrested last December 17 on a charge of "attempting to interfere with prosecution of the war, creating insubordination in the armed forces of the United States, giving aid and comfort to the enemy and destroying the unity of the Nation."

The man was released December 30 by order of Attorney General Biddle who declared that there was to be no interference with free speech.

A month ago, Kissenger obtained several hundred copies of the "Roosevelt Is a Judas" speech from Congressman Hoffman.

Called as a witness yesterday by the special grand jury on Axis

agents, Kissenger told reporters that he was very much puzzled by the summons. He had thought, he explained, that his troubles were over when the "free speech" order was issued.

Special Prosecutor Maloney is due to question Kissenger today.

A third known distributor of Hoffman's speech is Gerald B. Winrod, who issues a magazine called The Defender at Wichita, Kans. Winrod, too, is due to face the grand jury today.

A fourth is Mrs. David Stanley, wife of an employe of the Aluminum Company of America and active leader in a group called "United Mothers of America." This group held a conference in Cleveland on March 31, at which the principal speaker was Mrs. Agnes Waters, isolationist of 3287 N Street Northwest. Mrs. Waters issued statements proclaiming that the jailed German agent, Viereck was a patriot and that President Roosevelt was a "traitor." Mimeographed statements to this affect were given out at the Cleveland meeting over which Mrs. Stanley presided.

Prosecutor Maloney plans to question Mrs. Stanley, too, this afternoon.

ing Courses

Another Distributor

A fifth known distributor of the Hoffman speech John Geis, a reputed "Christian Front," of Hempstead, Long Island. On the copies he sent out, Geis stamped or printed the words, "The American Way," which is the name he gives his operation.

A sixth known distributor is Charles W. Phillips, who publishes a pseudo finance bulletin called The Individualist, in Lincoln, Nebr. A seventh is Mrs. Beatrice Knowles, of the "American Mothers" of Detroit, affiliated with the "United Mothers of America."

An eighth is Mrs. William B. Shelton, of the "League of Constitutional Liberties," Brooklyn, N. Y.

And the ninth is the San Francisco Leader, which recently contributed to the cause of allied unity the prediction that England would soon be blaming defeats on the United States.

Only Hoffman Can Answer

How many more there are, and who they are, and what they used the speeches for, is a question that only Hoffman can answer.

The Post's investigation of movements and publications which were suspected of being subversive brought the discovery—more than ten days ago—of the joint mailing of the Hoffman speech, the seditious card and the Hudson bulletin.

The Department of Justice was informed.

Shortly afterward the special grand jury on Axis agents called before it Dillard Stokes, a Post re-

porter, who testified again yesterday. Also summoned last week was Miss Helen Boyer—who acts as Hoffman's secretary but has been carried on the House payroll as a clerk.

The first of the Hoffman speech distributors called by the grand jurors, when Foreman John S. Gorrell resumed the session yesterday, was the Omaha editor, Hudson. He came out of the grand jury room about 12:30 p. m. and said he was looking for a lawyer.

Court Reporter Reads Notes

The grand jurors reassembled in Justice Bailey's courtroom after lunch and Hudson was called to the bar. Prosecutor Maloney told the court the man refused to answer questions. Sworn as a witness, Reporter Lawrence La Charity read from his shorthand notes of Hudson's testimony before the grand jurors. It appeared that Hudson identified the card.

Hudson said the plate was sent to him, but that he could not remember who sent it.

"That card," explained Hudson, "is quite old now," indicating that it has been in circulation for some time.

Thirty of the seditious cards, mailed in Omaha in envelopes with Hudson's return address, have been received in Washington in the past week. But he told the grand jurors



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that he had sent out "only about a dozen" since war was declared.

"Who did the printing job?" asked Maloney.

"A friend of mine, you probably

know already," replied Hudson.

"What's the difference?"

Parries More Questions

"What is the name?" pressed Maloney.

"I know what persecution . . ." Hudson began, but the prosecutor interrupted, "The name?"

"I would rather go to jail than tell," Hudson retorted.

The witness sparred over a half a dozen more questions about the name of the printer.

When La Charity had completed his reading, Justice Bailey—72 years old, slender and silver haired—leaned forward and asked gently:

"Do you still persist in refusing to answer this question?"

Hudson said: "I feel that as an American citizen called here as a witness—I don't know why any friends of mine should be brought into this inquiry."

Justice Bailey said Hudson must answer.

"Does it make any difference who printed it?" asked Hudson. "That card is not subversive. Besides, I

he gives the desired testimony within ten days.

During the rest of the afternoon Prosecutor Maloney questioned Hudson's wife and his son, William, who collaborate with him in publishing "America in Danger."

They were ordered to return at 10:30 o'clock this morning. Also to be questioned today is E. J. Garner, editor of Publicity, at Wichita, Kans.