

Rep. Hoffman Sees 'Smear' In Axis Probe

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Jury Questions Him;
He Clashes With
Woodrum in House,
Attacks President

Gerald L. K. Smith gnaws at
Anglo-American unity in a new
magazine. See Page 5.

By Dillard Stokes
Post Staff Writer

Representative Clare E. Hoffman yesterday was questioned twice before the special grand jury on Axis agents, and there were indications that the grand jurors will call him back before they finish their investigation of enemy-inspired propaganda.

Hoffman delayed giving his evidence while he raised a point of "personal privilege" in the House, where he professed to discuss recent disclosures about the kind of people who have been sending out official copies of his "Roosevelt Is a Judas" speech.

During an hour of invective on the floor of the House the scowling isolationist Republican from Michigan attacked President Roosevelt, condemned advocates of "Union Now," called Special Prosecutor William Power Maloney a "smear artist" and hinted that The Post found out things it had no business knowing, in the course of an investigation of defeatist activities in which his speech was found to be involved.

Doesn't Refer to Some Points

However, the shouting Hoffman had not himself a word to say—not a whisper—about three items:

The mailing of his "Roosevelt is a Judas" speech in the same wrapper with the bulletin from the nameless leaders of a revolutionist group who urged their members to buy guns and ammunition.

The mailing of his speech by Charles E. Hudson, Jew-baiting, anti-British agitator, in the same envelope with a seditious postcard and an offer to sell copies of the Hoffman speech in wholesale lots.

The offering for sale of two pamphlets written by Hoffman, by the editor of a pro-Nazi magazine published in California.

These have been revealed by The Post in the last few days.

Fish Comes to Rescue

Once, when Hoffman was hard-pressed by questions from Majority Leader John McCormack, Representative Hamilton Fish came to his rescue, Hamilton Fish—who instructed his secretary to handle a franked mailing for the German agent, George Sylvester Viereck, and who saw the secretary go to prison for perjury about Viereck, and about depositing some concealed evidence in the storeroom used by Fish on Capitol Hill.

Members who invoke "personal privilege" usually exhibit what has been printed about them, so that members of the House may know what is being "replied" to.

Hoffman, however, selected four mild paragraphs from two out-of-town papers. Both publications referred to the "Roosevelt is a Judas" speech and to the use of 30,000 of Hoffman's franks by Viereck's Nazi propaganda organization.

Subtitled "A Judas"

Hoffman gave his speech the subtitle, "A Judas," and in the course of it he said:

"Ever since the President had his conference with Churchill on the high seas, we have been hearing from editorial writers, radio commentators and New Deal spokesmen of the United Nations. Now comes a member of the President's Cabinet, Ickes; a member of the Supreme Court, Roberts; both of whom have sworn to uphold the Constitution, and add their indorsement to the Judas-like betrayal of our people . . ."

Hoffman did not read this paragraph, as he did others about other persons, when he was telling the House yesterday that his address

did not contain "any reference to the President as a Judas."

"I did not do any such thing," Hoffman emphasized when Representative Clifton A. Woodrum (Democrat), of Virginia, commented, "I think it may probably be assumed you meant to class them with Judas."

"If the gentleman did not call him a Judas," Woodrum snapped, "that is about the only thing the gentleman has not called the President."

It was Woodrum who broke into Hoffman's diatribe and brought up the strange company in which The Post found some of the 145,000 reprints Hoffman ordered from the Government Printing Office.

"What we would like to know," said Woodrum, "is how the gentleman's speeches got into that circular."

Woodrum Insists

"When the gentleman," Hoffman answered, "suggests that there is a disloyal thought in my mind, he is just drawing on his imagination." He went on to discourse about

Grand Jury Witnesses



Post Staff Photo
CONGRESSMAN AT COURTHOUSE—Representative Clare Hoffman (right) and his secretary, Helen Boyer, as they left the chambers of the special grand jury on Axis agents yesterday



Post Staff Photo
DAVID BAXTER leaving District Courthouse yesterday. He is scheduled to be quizzed Thursday by the special grand jury on German agents

they will grab control of an imminent revolution in this country.

They included Mrs. David Stanley, who presided at a meeting two weeks ago where pamphlets were distributed blaming the President for the Pearl Harbor attack and calling him a "traitor."

Sedition Suspect There

They included Hermann D. Kissinger, the Kansas City lawyer who contributed to the bund paper and was arrested for sedition 10 days after Pearl Harbor.

They included Gerald B. Winrod, the anti-Jewish, Hitler-heiling editor of the Wichita, Kans., magazine, The Defender—whose defeatist policies are of a piece with those of the others.

Besides these "undoubtedly patriotic Americans," who have been called by the grand jury to give evidence in the Department of Justice effort to track down the source of suspected enemy propaganda, Hoffman has sent his speech to others.

How many of these people there are, and who they are, and what they paid, if anything, for the "Roosevelt Is a Judas" speech, is something that Hoffman alone can tell, and that he did not tell the House yesterday.

McCormack Questions Him

Hoffman did tell the House that Prosecutor Maloney had said he would defeat every isolationist in the House. Majority Leader McCormack promptly challenged this, asking who told Hoffman. But the man from Michigan would not tell. Not the House, he said, and not the Judiciary Committee.

It was after half a dozen vain questions by the majority leader that Fish got up to help his colleague.

During his remarks, Hoffman passed out samples of his "Roosevelt is a Judas" speech, pointing out that it bore the formal title, "Don't Haul Down the Stars and Stripes." He did not pass out samples of the seditious card or the "buy arms" bulletin with which the speech has been sent through the mails.

Later in the afternoon, Hoffman was warmly greeted by the other witnesses assembled at Judiciary Square. With his entrance, the men and women waiting to be questioned perked up and for the next few minutes merry laughter could be heard through the locked doors. This happy merriment continued, even after Hudson was taken into the room in handcuffs.

Others who testified before the grand jury yesterday were Dillard Stokes, of The Post; Mrs. Stanley, Winrod and Hoffman's secretary, Miss Helen Boyer.

Although he would not tell the press any more than the House, anything about his distribution of the speech, Hoffman did have one comment to make at Judiciary Square. Pausing before the correspondent of Tass, the official Soviet agency, the Congressman said: "Good looking mustache."

"Administration waste" and fan dancers, boondogglers, bowlers and horseshoe pitchers.

"None of my speeches has even been circulated by any subversive group," Woodrum remarked after awhile. Then he repeated, "How did the gentleman's speeches get into that circular?"

"That is easily answered," said Hoffman. "You may as well ask, how does any one get a copy of the Bible when he goes to a hotel?" He continued at some length, until Woodrum broke in:

"How did this association get quantities of the gentleman's speech?"

"The Files Are Open"

After some further rambling, Hoffman said a woman came to his office and addressed a number of franked speeches to a list of friends. He went on:

"Others that were sent out were all sent out at the request of the people who were contributing to or paid the cost of them. Undoubtedly the district attorney here, if he wants, or anyone else who wants to know who paid for them, can come over to my office and get that information. The files are open. The letters are open that they wrote asking for them . . . undoubtedly from patriotic Americans."

Some of the people who got hundreds or thousands of copies of Hoffman's reprints were waiting to greet him, when he got to the chambers of the special grand jury on Axis agents about 3 p. m.

They included Charles B. Hudson, who mailed out the speech with the seditious card, who was sentenced to jail for three months last week for refusing to tell who printed the card. Apparently Hudson told when he was questioned again, because Special Prosecutor John T. M. Redden said Hudson would probably be released this morning.

They included David Baxter, the Californian who is being hailed as the "man of the hour" and the Nation's new leadership, by the little Jew-baiting papers which slander the President, predict successes for Hitler, blame America for the Pearl Harbor attack, and echo Hudson's slogan, "End the War Quickly." Baxter's works are mailed out in the same wrapper as Hoffman's speech and the "buy arms" bulletin issued by the secret leaders of the Social Republic Society, who say