

Quiz Rep. Hoffman On Pro-Axis Links

Heads of Pro-Nazi Group Using His Speeches Also Probed By U.S.

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WASHINGTON, April 13.—Rep. Clare Hoffman, labor-baiting Republican from Michigan, was asked today by a special Grand Jury on Axis agents to explain his ties with the leaders of five pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic organizations.

These groups, which have been spreading pro-Axis and defeatist propaganda, have mailed

throughout the country thousands of copies of a speech by Hoffman bitterly condemning administration war policies and implying that President Roosevelt is "a Judas."

After a feeble attempt to defend himself on the House floor, Hoffman was grilled for an hour before the Grand Jury by William P. Maloney, special Department of Justice prosecutor.

FASCISTS CALLED IN

Sitting in an adjoining witness room while Hoffman was testifying were the following leaders of pro-Nazi groups which have distributed copies of Hoffman's speech:

Gerald Winrod, Editor of a defeatist publication called "The Defender" which is published in Wichita, Kansas.

David Baxter, leader of the Social Republic Society, a secret Fascist group operating in California which openly stated in its bulletin that it is "preparing for revolution" and which mailed copies of Hoffman's speech together with a call to its members to "buy arms and keep them in a place where they are easily accessible."

Charles B. Hudson, Editor of America in Danger, who mailed out copies of the Hoffman speech together with a seditious card entitled "West Africa is not Iceland—It's not a nice land." Hudson was sentenced to three months in jail for contempt after refusing to tell the Grand Jury who published this card, but was freed today after agreeing to talk.

Herman D. Kissenger, a Kansas City lawyer who wrote frequently for the Deutscher Wockruf Und Beobachter, publication of the Nazi German-American Bund. Kissenger was arrested on a sedition charge on Dec. 17, but was later released.

WOMAN TESTIFIES

Mrs. David Stanley, leader of a pro-Axis group called the United Mothers of America which held a conference in Cleveland a few days ago where leaflets were distributed

calling the President "A Traitor" and praising George Sylvester Viereck, convicted Nazi agent as

Winrod and Mrs. Stanley testified today before Hoffman, and will be called back on Thursday together with Baxter, Kissenger and Hudson who waited in the witness room but did not appear.

Prosecutor Maloney indicated he did not know whether Hoffman would also be recalled for further questioning.

During his speech on the House floor today in which he attempted to explain away his links with pro-Nazi groups, Hoffman was questioned sharply by Majority Leader John W. McCormack and Rep. Clifton Woodrum of Virginia.

McCormack said that he favored legislation which would require Congressmen to pay for reprints of their own speeches and would prevent groups, such as the pro-Nazi organizations which got Hoffman's speech, to order copies of speeches from the Congressional record.

Hoffman had ordered 145,000 copies of a reprint combining two speeches which he made on the House floor on Jan. 27 and Jan. 30 of this year, and also 90,000 postage-free envelopes with which to send out these speeches.

FAILED TO EXPLAIN

The Michigan labor-baiter failed to tell the House today who had paid for the expense of getting the Government Printing Office to make reprints of these speeches nor how it was that Winrod, Hudson and other pro-Axis propagandists got hold of substantial numbers of the reprints.

All the information Hoffman would volunteer to the House was that "some women" came into his office and asked him for copies of his speech.

While Hoffman claimed that his speech was "patriotic," he had himself inserted the subhead "A Judas" which seemed to point at President Roosevelt.

By implication Hoffman proceeded to identify President Roosevelt with this alleged "Judas like betrayal" and to blame, not Hitler, but the President of trying to conquer the world in the following language:

"Alexander the Great wept because there were not other worlds to conquer. Franklin Delano Roosevelt is not satisfied with being a third-time President of the United States, an honor which the patriotism of Washington forbade him to accept."

Rep. Woodrum told Hoffman that it was "only fair to assume that you thought that President Roosevelt was a Judas."

"I never called him that," Hoffman said.

"Then that's the only thing you haven't called him," Woodrum retorted.

Hoffman was defended by Reps. Hamilton Hish of New York, who was linked with George Sylvester Viereck's Nazi propaganda mill, and by Rep. Robert Rich, Pennsylvania Republican.