

# America First Official Called In Sedition Quiz

*F-174/24/42*  
Mrs. Fairbanks, Two

Others Summoned

By Federal Jurors

CHICAGO, April 23 (U.P.). Mrs. Janet Ayer Fairbanks, national vice chairman of the now defunct America First Committee, was subpoenaed along with two others today to appear before a Federal Grand Jury conducting a sedition inquiry.

U. S. deputy marshals served Mrs. Fairbanks, who also was chairman of the Illinois chapter of America First, with the forthwith subpoena at her North Shore mansion where she was making preparations for a party for her daughter.

#### May Appear Today

Although the subpoena ordered her immediate appearance before the jury, now in session, U. S. District Attorney J. Albert Woll, in charge of the sedition investigation, doubted that she would be asked to appear before tomorrow.

Others subpoenaed were William J. Grace, chairman of the "Citizens United States Committee," which was the "Citizens Committee to Keep America Out of War" prior to December 7, and Mrs. Lyril Van Hyning, chairman of "We the Mothers Mobilize for America, Inc."

#### Strong Noninterventionists

The America First Committee as well as the organizations headed by both Mrs. Hyning and Grace were strongly noninterventionist prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Woll said two other subpoenas had been placed in the hands of the U. S. Marshal, but had not yet been served. Those named in the unserved writs were not revealed.

Mrs. Hyning and Grace appeared at the District Attorney's office for questioning and were asked to return tomorrow to go before the jury.

When Grace emerged from Woll's office, he remarked:

"I was asked a lot of silly questions. My conclusion is that if our Army and Navy is no better informed than our Justice Department officials, we need a house cleaning at the top of this country."

#### Will Shift to Capital

The grand jury investigation was part of an expanded Justice Department campaign against seditious activities and Axis propagandists ordered by U. S. Attorney General Francis Biddle. A similar inquiry will center at Washington.

Woll said one of the investigations centered here because Chicago is headquarters for numerous "borderline seditious publications" as well as for allegedly subversive organizations. He said the investigation would require three months.