

Biddle Orders Seditious Probe By Grand Jury in Coast Area

An immediate Federal Grand Jury investigation into alleged activities of a number of individuals, organizations and publications in the Los Angeles area was requested last night by Attorney General Francis Biddle. The inquiry, to be conducted by U. S. Attorney William Fleet Palmer, of the Southern District of California, will begin Monday. The grand jury will be asked to examine such activities with relation to the several Federal statutes "designed to protect the United States in its successful prosecution of the war," Biddle said.

Similar investigations already are under way here and in Chicago and others are anticipated. Biddle said Palmer would seek to develop information "concerning the origin, membership, finances, sponsorship and activities of certain organizations in the Los Angeles area, including the printing, circulation and methods of distributing publications issued by such organizations." He said the information developed by each grand jury investigation would be correlated.

The District of Columbia Grand Jury currently is investigating the background of Social Justice, weekly magazine founded by the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin. Biddle recently described this publication as "clearly seditious."