

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1942

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Attorney General Francis Biddle today issued the following statement concerning the transportation of seditious publications:

"The transporting or distributing by any means whatsoever of publications declared non-mailable under provisions of the Espionage Act of 1917 is a violation of Section 19 of the Trading With The Enemy Act and is subject to heavy penalties.

"Section 19 provides that it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, or association...to transport, carry, or otherwise publish or distribute any matter which is made non-mailable by provisions of the Act relating to espionage, approved June 15, 1917."

"This law also provides that if the violator is an individual, he may be punished by a fine of \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than ten years, or both; and that if the violator is a corporation, any of its officers, directors or agents who knowingly participate in the violation are subject to similar penalties.

"Thus, provisions of this Act apply to editors, express companies, truckers, and all others concerned in publishing or distributing a seditious publication. Such persons must assume full responsibility for any activities in violation of Section 19 whether or not the Department of Justice sends them advance warning or notice.

"The Department is already receiving the cooperation of express companies and other organizations in the transportation and distribution field. Whenever proceedings are brought by the Department of Justice or the Post Office Department against a publication for violation of the Espionage Act of 1917, the

(OVER)

Department of Justice will endeavor to give prompt notice to any transportation companies having offices in the vicinity.

"However, vendors and other interested persons should follow the public announcements of the Department of Justice and the Post Office Department."