

District Jury Indicts Ohioan As Nazi Agent

Republican Leader Called Propagandist; Court Cites Dennett

Frank B. Burch, an isolationist and Republican leader in Akron, Ohio, was accused of being a secret propaganda agent of the German government, in an indictment presented here yesterday by a special grand jury. He was charged with failing to register with the State Department.

At the same time, Prescott Dennett, manager of the Columbia Press Service, was cited for contempt of court action for failing to give the grand jury records of two organizations whose leaders included the late Senator Lundeen, of Minnesota; the late Maj. Gen. Smedley D. Butler and other isolationists.

Federal agents seized records at Dennett's office at 1430 Rhode Island Avenue Northwest later in the afternoon, with the consent of his counsel, and hauled them away in a truck.

Publishers Investigated

The charge against Burch was the first results of a Department of Justice investigation of publishing houses suspected of being financed and controlled by the Nazis.

The "propaganda squad" of special prosecutors—Special Assistant Attorneys General George A. McNulty, William P. Maloney and Edward J. Hickey—began the inquiry last Tuesday, a few hours after Federal agents went through Burch's home and offices with a search warrant.

The investigation's first witness was Burch, a prominent lawyer of many years standing, with a wide acquaintance among powerful figures in finance and industry. Burch was repeatedly called back for questioning and was waiting in the

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witness room yesterday when the jurors filed before Justice Jesse C. Adkins to charge that he was per-

sued by Karl Kopp, German consul at Cleveland, to become an agent of the Reich.

Pamphlets Circulated

The indictment said Kopp arranged for Burch to be "public relations counsel, agent, representative and attorney for the Berlin government." In these capacities, said the indictment, Burch took \$10,000 from Kopp and bought and circulated pamphlets and publications to influence American public opinion on political questions.

Throughout these operations, said the indictment, Burch took care to see that the people who got the propaganda did not know who was sending it to them or who was paying for it. In particular, the indictment charged that Burch used the German consul's money to buy and distribute a pamphlet called "A. D. 1776 for Liberty—H. R. 1776 for Dictatorship," which was issued by the Women's National Committee to Keep the United States Out of War.

H. R. 1776 was the Lend-Lease Bill. The indictment said Burch used German money to send the pamphlet against the bill to 25,000 persons, who did not know where it was coming from.

Moreover, the indictment said, Burch compiled a list of 30,000 persons prominent in finance, industry and politics, which he supplied for the German consul as a mailing list for the publication "Facts in Review." The indictment identified this as a publication of the German government, issued through the German Library of Information, which was expelled from this country by President Roosevelt last May.

The indictment charged Burch's activities extended from January 1, 1940, to July 15, 1941, and that during this period he was violating the law by failing to register with the State Department as an alien propagandist.

McNulty said that this failure thwarted the purpose of the law, which was to "denature" foreign propaganda by exposing its origin,

without curbing anybody's freedom to circulate anything he wished.

Burch will be arraigned in the District Court by Friday.

Dennett was haled before Justice Adkins early yesterday. Prosecutor Maloney reported that Dennett had been ordered, both by the grand jury foreman and by a subpoena, to produce the records of the Make Europe Pay Committee and the Islands for War Debts Committee. Dennett, said Maloney, failed to obey and evaded questions about whether he had done so.

Failed to Reply

The grand jurors were interested in the books of account, which Maloney said would show contributions

from known German agents, in the files of letters written and received and in the membership lists.

Horace Webb, court reporter, read the proceedings. His notes showed that Foreman John Gorrell half a dozen times asked Dennett for the documents without getting a reply.

Attorney O. H. Osterman appeared for Dennett and said it would take weeks to pick out the items which had been called for.

"Very well," said Justice Adkins. "Let him give up all his records and the grand jury or the prosecutors will find the items for themselves."

Federal agents hauled a truck load of material away from Dennett's offices later in the afternoon.

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