

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Sept. 23, 1941

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Department of Justice announces that a Federal grand jury sitting in the District of Columbia today returned an indictment against Frank B. Burch, an attorney of Akron, Ohio, charging failure to register as an agent of a foreign principal as required by the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938.

The indictment, on one count, charges that between January 1, 1940, and July 15, 1941, Burch acted as "a public relations counsel, agent, representative and attorney of the German Government in the United States"; that he advised the German Government through its accredited consular officials, on matters pertaining to public relations, public policy and political interests; and that he disseminated books, pamphlets and other written matter on behalf of the German Government.

The indictment charges specifically that Burch, acting at the direction of Karl Kapp, German Consul at Cleveland, Ohio, and with funds supplied by Kapp purchased approximately \$10,000 worth of books, pamphlets and periodicals, which he distributed to a mailing list of approximately 25,000 people in the United States. Included in the matter thus distributed, the indictment charges, was a pamphlet entitled "A.D. 1776 for Liberty; H.R. 1776 for Dictatorship", published by the Women's National Committee to Keep the U.S. Out of War, Catherine Curtis, National Chairman, 535 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

The indictment alleges that Burch distributed the pamphlets and periodicals for the purpose of swaying American public opinion in opposition

to legislation affecting national defense, which was then pending before Congress. (H.R. 1776).

The indictment further charges that Burch prepared and delivered to Kapp a mailing list of approximately 30,000 people to whom Kapp distributed, among others, a pamphlet entitled "Facts in Review", published by the German Library of Information. Included in the mailing list were the names of all members of Congress and of all the 48 State legislatures.

The case was presented to the grand jury by Special Assistants to the Attorney General Edward J. Hickey, Jr., William P. Maloney, and James McInerney, under the direction of George McNulty, chief of the Trial Section of the Criminal Division, and Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge in charge of the Criminal Division.