

Flanagan Discusses Fish and Inquiry

Gives List of Questions He Believes
House Would Like to Have Answered

The importance of the special grand jury investigation of the activities of German agents was stressed by Representative John W. Flanagan, jr. (Democrat), of Virginia, to the House of Representatives in discussing the subpoena which ordered Representative Hamilton Fish to go before the jury.

The investigation, which is being conducted by Special Prosecutors William Power Maloney and Edward J. Hickey, jr., of the Department of Justice propaganda squad, will be resumed next Monday.

After approving the resolution which withdrew the protection of the House from Fish, leaving him free to obey the summons, Flanagan said in his speech Monday:

"Now let us look at the facts. The Government is trying to ferret out these Nazi gutter rats that are attempting to undermine the faith of our people in their Government by disseminating propaganda that will bring about disunity. In the dissemination of this propaganda it is alleged the Congressional frank is being misused. It is common knowledge that there are many subversive agencies scattered over our land, supplied with foreign funds, spreading this propaganda.

Cites Removal of Mailbags

"A Federal grand jury has been impaneled in the District of Columbia to investigate the whole matter and bring to the bar of justice the guilty. This grand jury investigation has led to the indictment and arrest of a member of the office force of the Representative from New York. The indictment charges perjury, that is, giving false testimony before the grand jury. The investigation discloses that speeches of the gentleman from New York have been mailed out by, at least, one supposedly subversive agency under the gentleman's Congressional frank; and that the indicted member of his office force has received from some unknown source a large sum of money, and when questioned by the grand jury relative to the money he refused to answer, evidently upon the theory that a true answer would incriminate him or bring embarrassment to others.

"When the agent in charge of one of these supposedly subversive agencies was summoned before the same grand jury, we find that after the summons had been served but before he appeared, certain mail bags were taken from his office to the office of the gentleman from New York, some of the mail bags containing the gentleman's speeches enclosed in his franked envelopes.

"The gentleman from New York, from statements appearing in the press, is, it is thought, in possession of knowledge that would clear up many of these things, among them being, where the member of his office force received the money and to what use he put it, and the number of his speeches in franked envelopes turned over to the supposedly subversive agency and other persons, organizations and agencies.

"The Congressman has been invited to appear before the grand jury and clear up the whole matter and, it appears, refused the invitation. A summons was then issued and served on him to appear, and when questioned by a reporter as to whether he would appear in obedience to the summons is reported to have replied that he did not know until he 'consulted his lawyer.' His lawyer raises the hue and cry of 'smear.'

"There are some things I believe

the membership of the House would like to know, namely:

"(1) How can you smear a man by giving him an opportunity, under oath, to tell his side of the controversy before a grand jury? His appearance before the grand jury would be given wide publicity and, unless incriminating, and I do not think it would be, would clear up any smear his enemies may have attempted to paint him with. Truth has never asked anything better than a forum from which to speak. What better forum could any man demand than the opportunity to testify before a Federal grand jury?

"(2) In raising the question of personal privilege, the gentleman from New York stated the privilege to be, 'I find I am unable to comply with the summons without the consent of the House, the privilege of the House being involved: I therefore submit the matter for the consideration of this body.'

"Question: If the gentleman from New York wanted to appear before the grand jury and make a full disclosure, but felt some hesitancy without first obtaining the 'consent of the House,' why did he not simply ask the House for such consent? The House, in my opinion, would have gladly given its consent. Its action today confirms my opinion.

"And there are some things that, in the name of national safety and security, should be known, namely:

"(1) How many speeches has the gentleman from New York furnished to individuals, associations and agencies to be mailed out under his Congressional frank, and a list of such individuals, associations and agencies?

"(2) Why were the speeches returned by Dennett after he had been summoned to appear before the grand jury but before he actually appeared, and why did the gentleman's office arrange for the return of the speeches by sending a Government truck?

Source of Money

"(3) From what source or sources did the member of his office force receive the large sum of money, for what purpose was the money furnished, and what use was actually made of the money? What contact or contacts brought forth the money to the member of his office force?

"(4) Is the gentleman's apparent aversion to testifying before the grand jury due to embarrassment or a sincere desire to shield some one, if so, whom?

"I believe the grand jury is entitled to full and complete answers to these questions, and I feel sure the gentleman from New York can answer same to the satisfaction of the grand jury and the American people. I sincerely hope that, without further ado, he will see fit to appear before the grand jury and give full and complete answers, let the chips fall where they may. I feel quite sure that the grand jury, as to time of appearance, will cooperate with the gentleman from New York so as to hear him on some day when the House stands in recess, so the great district he represents, in the language of the resolution, will not be deprived of 'his voice and vote.'

"My colleagues, while there may be some excuse for a Representative, conscientiously against the foreign policies of this Administration, being duped into furnishing his speeches to agencies that he did not know were subversive, which agencies used the speeches to spread

dissension among our people, there can be no excuse for a Representative, or any one else, attempting to cover up his mistake by refusing to make a frank and full disclosure before a grand jury impaneled and sworn to uncover the activities of those who attempt to weaken our national defense by circulating literature calculated to cause dissension and disunity.

"The manly thing to do, the patriotic thing to do, is for all of us to cooperate to the fullest with the Government in its effort to bring these crafty, deceptive, slimy, subversive tools of Hitler to the bar of justice.

"Let us ever remember that the safety and security of this Republic are paramount to the rights of any individual."