

# Fish's Files Rifled, Police Without Clue

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Maloney Hints

## FBI Action in Propaganda Probe

Capitol police were without a clue last night to the person or persons who entered the offices of Representative Hamilton Fish (R.), of New York, isolationist leader, Monday night and ransacked all the desks and filing cabinets.

Walter Reynolds, secretary to the Congressman, who discovered the papers in disorder, said he believed there may be some connection between the rifling of the offices and the current District Grand Jury investigation of Nazi propaganda in this country. The Grand Jury has summoned Fish to appear before it.

### Files In Disorder

While Reynolds said he has discovered nothing missing from the offices, thus far, he reported the matter immediately after he found the files in disorder on Tuesday morning. He not only informed Speaker Sam Rayburn, but asked the superintendent of the House Office Building to make an investigation.

He also notified Fish, who is a colonel in the Army reserve corps and now is attending maneuvers for the first Army in the Carolinas. Fish is due to return to Washington in 10 days.

William Power Maloney, special assistant to the Attorney General in charge of the Grand Jury probe, which resulted in an indictment on two counts of perjury against George Hill, a clerk in Fish's office, made this comment on the matter:

"The reported rifling of Representative Fish's office and files is a matter of concern to the Department of Justice.

### Pertinent Material

"We only hope the person or persons who are reported to have disturbed the Representative's papers did not remove any material that would be pertinent to the Grand Jury investigation when Representative Fish makes his delayed appearance to testify regarding the violation of Federal laws."

After Fish failed to respond to the subpoena of the Grand Jury, the House adopted a resolution directing the House Judiciary Committee to determine whether legislators must respond to such summons and ordered the Representative to ignore the subpoena pending action. Later the House voted that a member may respond if the House is not actually in session.

Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, in charge of the criminal division of the Department of Justice, said no report of the ransacking of Fish's office had been made to the department.

### Hastily Done Job

He said:

"If any robbery has been committed, I assume it has been reported to the proper authorities and that diligent efforts will be made to apprehend the offender or offenders."

Reynolds said he found the door of the office unlocked when he arrived early Tuesday morning and the discovery that the papers in one desk were in disorder aroused his suspicions.

"It was a job hastily done," Reynolds said. "Something confidential may be missing, but I am not certain of this. This much is certain—not a desk or file escaped the attention of the intruder."