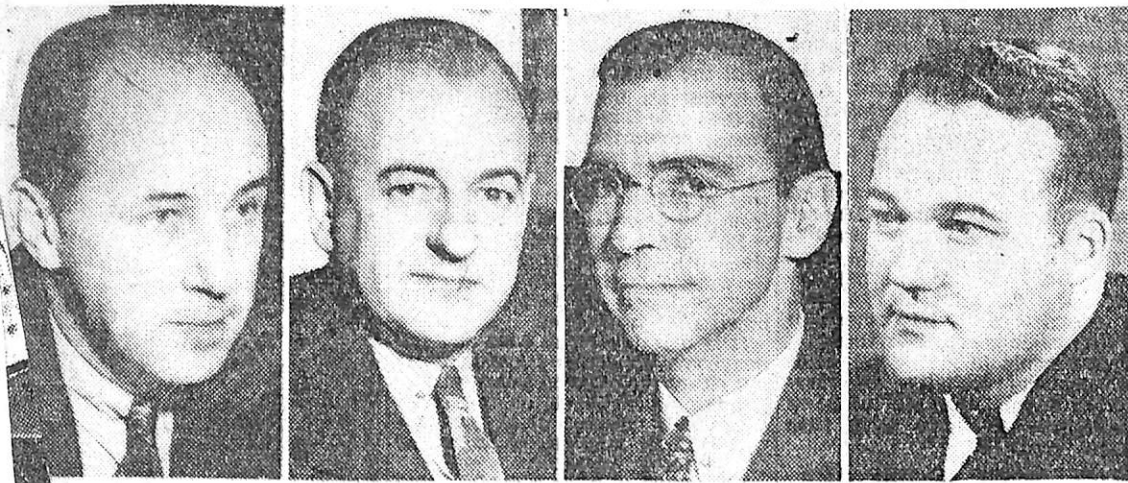


# Special 'Squad' of U. S. Attorneys Makes Life Miserable for Foreign Propagandists



Post Staff Photos

**INVESTIGATE GERMAN AGENTS**—The big guns of the organization investigating subversive activities are (from left) Special Assistant Attorney General William Power Maloney, Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, George A. McNulty, assistant to the Attorney General, and Edward J. Hickey, jr., Department of Justice special prosecutor. Berge heads the squad

By Dillard Stokes  
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Interlocking of widely scattered Nazi and other subversive agencies in the United States brought about organization of a little crew of specialists who are coming to be known as the "propaganda squad" of the Department of Justice.

The members are listed on the department's rolls as special prosecutors, and work under the direction of Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, chief of the criminal division. But the nature of their work, tracing the hidden connections between one subversive center and another, has earned them the new unofficial title.

When prosecutions began under the law requiring all foreign agents in this country to register with the State Department, cases were assigned individually. However, it began to appear that one suspected violation dovetailed with another; that a Nazi-sponsored publishing house in New Jersey had relations with a center of agitation hundreds of miles away. Thus the scope of inquiry broadened and the most recent grand jury to hear the investigators was extended in authority to complete its work.

Currently investigating German agents before the Washington grand jury headed by John S. Gorrell, as foreman, are Special Assistant Attorney General William Power Maloney and Special Prosecutor Edward J. Hickey, jr.

George A. McNulty, chief of the trial section, joins them at strategic sessions of the grand jury and for important court hearings.

Berge receives daily reports of the progress of the propaganda squad.

Holder of the master of laws degree from the University of Michigan, Berge was in private practice in New York before entering the Department of Justice antitrust division in 1930. He was successively

chief of the trial section, chief of the first section, and

the Supreme Court and the Federal courts of appeal. Early this year President Roosevelt named him Assistant Attorney General and he was placed in charge of all criminal matters.

McNulty left his St. Louis practice and professor's chair in 1935, to join the legal staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, becoming chief of the Wages and Hours section after an interval in which he was "loaned" to the Senate Civil Liberties Committee.

In his work for the Department of Justice, McNulty has frequently stressed the purposes of the Registration Act, which seeks merely to expose the origin of propaganda instead of trying to suppress it.

The lone "home town boy" on the propaganda squad is Hickey, whose father is assistant parliamentarian of the Senate. Born in Washington, Hickey was graduated from Central High School and attended Brown University, where he was a swimming star for three years and received the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy in 1934. He studied law at Georgetown University, being admitted to the bar in 1937, a year before he received his law degree.

Hickey was coordinator of the antitrust division before he joined the criminal staff this year. Last June 7 he married Miss Edith Sappenfield, of Gastonia, N. C.

Although a native of Inglewood, N. J., Maloney regards himself as a New Yorker, having gone to school there and studied law at Fordham. After several years in private practice he became an assistant United States attorney in New York in 1934. He successfully prosecuted the first case under the law against foreign sweepstakes tickets and later sent 40 defendants to jail for a five-million-dollar mail fraud.

Before their marriage in April, 1940, Mrs. Maloney was Dorothy Crookes, a dancer who appeared throughout Europe and South America. When baffled by some problem of Nazi propaganda, Maloney can consult his wife, who ended her engagement and left him just before the war broke out in 1939.