

Indictments Due In Propaganda

T-H 12/17/41
Grand Jury Hears

Ralph Townsend

Grim-faced grand jurors in their first session since the United States went to war appeared to be clearing their dockets for action late yesterday against the axis propagandists whose activities they have investigated for three months.

Ralph Townsend, author of pro-Japanese articles and pamphlets, who vanished a month ago when the Grand Jury called him and could not be found in a nationwide hunt launched by G-men, spent four hours before the inquisitorial body yesterday.

It appeared that indictments from the group, which has been listening to enemy propaganda activities for three months, would be handed down before the end of this week.

Townsend was called before the grand jury, it is known, for questioning about his Japanese connections in the United States. Townsend frequently wrote for a publication which has been under surveillance for its pro-Nazi attitude.

The dark, curly-haired writer, who once was a United States Vice Consul in Japan, appeared in Washington last week following the declaration of war and submitted to the Justice Department a long letter in which he declared his loyalty to this nation. Later he said the United States would beat Japan.