

Woman Flyer Accused Here By F. B. I.

5/21/41
'I Took No Orders,'
Aviatrix Asserts
At Arraignment

By the Associated Press.

Laura Ingalls, noted woman flyer, was arraigned today on a charge of failure to register as a foreign agent in connection with alleged activities on behalf of the German government.

United States Commissioner Needham Turnage fixed Miss Ingalls' bond at \$7,500 and postponed the arraignment hearing until December 26 after she asked for time to consult an attorney.

The flyer said she had no money and a Government official said she would be taken to the District of Columbia Jail.

Held Incommunicado, She Says.

Miss Ingalls told the commissioner she had been arrested yesterday by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and held in a small room without sleep. She said they had refused to answer her questions or to let her speak to any one, and had taken away her money.

The Government's complaint charged that since August 1 Miss Ingalls had "acted, engaged to act, and agreed to act as an agent and representative for, and received compensation from and was under the direction of, the government of the German Reich" and therefore



LAURA INGALLS.

was required to register as a foreign agent with the State Department.

Asked by Commissioner Turnage how she wished to plead, Miss Ingalls asked question after question and then said she wished to telephone a lawyer in New York.

F. B. I. agents said this call would be arranged.

One question Miss Ingalls asked was whether being an agent meant "taking an oath and swearing allegiance, which I never did."

"I was a free agent and took no orders," she said.

"I followed no orders other than my own. I was doing something which I knew might be questioned if it were found out. I undertook something that I thought I could handle alone and I guess I overreached myself."

An F. B. I. agent said she had described her activities in a statement as counter-espionage.

Miss Ingalls created something of a furor in September, 1939, when she flew over the White House grounds and dropped peace pamphlets. Three years earlier she had released pigeons carrying a peace plea addressed to President Roosevelt.

Miss Ingalls, a vaudeville dancer when Charles A. Lindbergh flew to Paris, was once associated with the Women's National Committee to Keep the United States Out of War.

The leaflets she dropped in 1939 fell near the Capitol and near the White House and the C. A. A. suspended her license for flying over a restricted zone. After a hearing, it was recommended that she be reprimanded and her license was restored.

Active on Women's Committee.

She has been active in the work of the Women's Committee and was once barred from a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on neutrality law revision.

She became the first woman to pilot a plane non-stop from the East to the West Coast in 1935 and that same year was awarded the Harmon award for women flyers.

In 1934 she made a 16,000-mile flight from Miami, Fla., to the West Indies and Central and South America, during which she was forced down in Brazil.