

Is Biddle Using FBI to Squelch Protests on Bridges Ruling?

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Is Attorney General Francis Biddle using the police powers of the Department of Justice to suppress criticism of his action in ordering the deportation of Harry Bridges?

Perhaps not, but . . .

It has been said, and said again, by persons intimately connected with the radio trade in New York that agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, operating in pairs according to their custom, have called upon executives of New York radio stations demanding to know whether any individual or organization has attempted to purchase radio time "in behalf of Bridges."

It is also known that William Randolph (Make-Peace-with-Hitler) Hearst's leading political columnist has attempted to intimidate in-

dividuals from protesting the Biddle ruling by asserting that the FBI is compiling a list of all persons who protest. The threat appeared in Paul Mallon's column in Hearst's Journal-American Thursday.

[Mallon's threat will fail. Hundreds of thousands have already expressed their indignation. They include prominent lawyers, professionals—people in all walks of life. Philip Murray, speaking for five million CIO workers, condemned the Biddle ruling as an attack on America's war effort. Government officials responsible for war production and getting the goods of war to our Allies—men aware of what Bridges has done to speed production on the West Coast—have expressed their amazement and indignation at the Biddle order.]

Mallon's boss Hearst is the noisest of all the

appeaser publishers in his praise of Biddle's decision. In Washington Mallon's standing at the Department of Justice is of the best. Add it up yourself: Is Mallon speaking for Biddle when he threatens Gestapo terror against those who speak their minds on the Bridges case?

But the persistent report, echoed by numerous persons with the closest connections with the radio trade, that agents of the FBI—who are actually Biddle's employes—have conducted an inquisition of radio station executives on the Bridges case has equally serious implications.

Unless Mr. Biddle can deny it, this reported FBI intimidation can mean only one thing: That the Attorney General of the United States is using the power of his office to nullify and defy the Constitution of the United States he has sworn to defend "against all enemies."