

Publicity for Trujillo

Axis Probers to Hear Ex-D.C. City Editor

was 8/22/38
A former city editor of The Washington Herald has been drawn into the Axis propaganda grand jury investigation.

The newsman, invited to testify on a John Doe subpoena, is Ray Helgersen, who was press agent here for the Dominican military president, Gen. Rafael Trujillo, from two days after the Haitian massacre in the late fall of 1937 until resigning April 3, 1938.

NO. 1 DICTATOR

The massacre set in motion such a revulsion of American opinion that Rep. Ham Fish twice denounced the ~~Dominican~~ government on the House floor, classing Trujillo as the new world's No. 1 dictator and calling for American non-recognition of his tiny Caribbean country.

Mr. Helgersen, who had been at intervals with Mrs. Eleanor Patterson's paper from 1932 until Aug. 8, 1937, thereafter assumed the job of getting Gen. Trujillo a "good press" on a three-year contract specifying \$17,500 a year. One triumph of press agency which he cites was a 100-plate dinner for Trujillo at the Mayflower.

"One of the guests," Mr. Helgersen told The News, "was Gen. Marshall (Army Chief of Staff). Everybody said I wouldn't be able to get anybody to meet Trujillo."

SUCCEEDED BY DJAMGAROFF

Mr. Helgersen stepped down from the job in April of 1938, after drawing less than a third of the annual salary. His place was taken by Mr. George Djamgaroff, the black browed white Russian, who consented to represent Trujillo for \$50,000 per annum.

It was he who later arranged Mr. Fish's voyage of exploration to Santo Domingo, following which at a decorous interval Trujillo visited this country. At a still more brilliant dinner in New York, the swarthy Dominican was hailed as the inaugurator of his country's "golden age."

FISH GOT \$25,000

The hailer was Mr. Fish, to whose credit Trujillo one week later had deposited the sum of \$25,000, half of which was subsequently returned, the rest allegedly distributed between Mr. Fish's private bank account or used in purchases which the New York Representative now explains were disastrous wildcat oil speculations in the role of an agent and thus, he contends non-reportable as taxable income.

Mr. Helgersen is now seeking admission to the Army.



MR. HELGERSEN
\$17,500 per year



MR. DJAMGAROFF
He appeared before grand jury yesterday