



IMPRESSIONS—Three principals in the trial of Laura Ingalls, the flyer, as seen by Newman Sudduth, a Star staff artist. Above are James Reilly (left), defense counsel, and Justice James W. Morris, presiding over the proceedings. Below is Miss Ingalls as she prepared to testify against the charge of being an unregistered Nazi agent.

Miss Ingalls Proved Pro-Nazi Attitude, Prosecutor Asserts

Contacts With Embassy Followed Her Statements, Balch Tells Jury

Laura Ingalls proved her pro-German attitude long before she admittedly made secret contacts with the German Embassy and received pay for services, Special Prosecutor Dewey T. Balch asserted today in the Government's opening argument as the trial of the aviatrix for allegedly serving as an unregistered foreign agent drew to a close.

Mr. Balch, an assistant to the Attorney General, pointed out that several Government witnesses from various cities had testified to Miss Ingalls' expressed admiration for Hitler and the German cause in 1940. According to the Government's evidence and her own story, the prosecutor went on, Miss Ingalls did not launch her intrigue at the German Embassy until early in 1941. She contended she did so as a self-appointed secret agent of the United States.

Mr. Balch contended that Miss Ingalls' asserted statements to the witnesses in 1940 represented "her true viewpoint." He added:

"Is that consistent with a purpose of counter-espionage, with true loyalty to her country?"

The prosecutor also directed the jury's attention to the undisputed fact that Miss Ingalls had not mentioned her alleged role as a secret agent for this country until after she had been taken to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and learned that all her recent activities were

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counter espionage for the United States, "her activities would clearly show it."

James F. Reilly, defense attorney, told the jury of two women and 10 men that, in carrying on what the Government called pro-German propaganda, Miss Ingalls had done no more than many eminent Americans had been doing at the time. Members of Congress and others opposed to war, he pointed out, had been saying the same things on platforms all over the country that the aviatrix had said, and she was concerned primarily with keeping this country at peace.

"Bit of a Crackpot."

Declaring that Miss Ingalls' record showed her to be a woman of "courage, ambition and a tremendous amount of egotism," the defense attorney added:

"She also has shown herself to be a bit of a crackpot. In fact, this woman is a fanatic in carrying out what she believes."

Mr. Reilly charged the F. B. I. with keeping Miss Ingalls under interrogation steadily for 24 hours without sleep. While the Government, he added, had ridiculed her claim to have been a one-person counter-espionage service, she always has done things alone, he pointed out. He cited her long flight over the Andes, the first woman to achieve that.

Speaking of Miss Ingalls' admitted statements expressing admiration for what Hitler had done for the German people, Mr. Reilly said:

"A lot of people of Irish blood think that Hitler is no worse than Cromwell war."

A Mata Hari, She Says.

The noted flyer was on the witness