

# Laura Ingalls

## Gets 8 Months

## To 2 Years

### Is Better American Than Jurors, Flyer Protests to Judge

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Protesting that she is a better American than the jurors who convicted her, Miss Laura Ingalls, aviatrix, was sentenced this afternoon in District Court to eight months to two years, following her conviction as an unregistered Nazi agent.

The sentence was the maximum jail sentence.

Miss Ingalls spoke briefly to Justice James W. Morris before sentence was imposed asserting that "individualism is an American trait" and that she was exercising her rights when she acted as she did.

In closing, she asserted: "I salute the Republic of the United States."

#### Not Result of Expressions.

Justice Morris, in passing sentence, told the defendant that the punishment was not the result of her expressions on American policy. The jurist said that, in declining to accept her previously offered plea of nolo contendere ("I do not wish to contend" the case), he felt that the case should be passed on by a jury. The jury found her guilty of acting as an agent of a foreign principal, without registering as such at the State Department. That limitation is the law and Americans must obey it, the jurist said.

At this point, Miss Ingalls asked if she would have had the right to work for the United States if registered as a foreign agent, but Justice Morris asserted that he had previously gone into that matter thoroughly.

Miss Ingalls then quoted the maxim, "Ignorance of the law is no excuse," and the jurist passed sentence.

"Yes, your honor," replied the defendant, and then left the court room in company with a deputy United States marshal.

#### Could Have Been Fined \$1,000.

Two years' imprisonment and \$1,000 fine is the maximum penalty for this crime.

Special assistant to the Attorney General Neil Andrew prosecuted Miss Ingalls.

Wearing a large gray hat and brown jacket, Miss Ingalls came into a courtroom crowded with spectators on hand to hear the remainder of the Ewing criminal assault case.

As Miss Ingalls stood for sentence, Justice Morris told her he had had an investigation of her case made by the probation officer and asked her if she had anything to say.

"One of the great fundamentals inherent in the Constitution is liberty of conscience, and with the interests of my country at heart I thought I had the right to work against a war I knew we were not prepared to fight," Miss Ingalls said. "I feel there might never have been a Singapore if we had sufficient planes at Manila and Hawaii to stem the tide of the Japanese."

#### Acted on Patriotism.

"I realize that I have technically violated the law, but I never intended in conscience to act as a foreign agent. I worked as an individual. Individualism is an American trait. I hoped to turn my evidence over to the Government. I do not consider myself morally guilty of committing an act against my Government. My motives were born of intense patriotism. I feel there must be some strong Western power left to lead Europe out of chaos, and I saw no other power than the United States to do it.

"I can do nothing but accept the verdict of my fellow countrymen, but I do so in the feeling that I am a truer patriot than those who convicted me. Sacrifice is to be our lot from now on. I am willing to make mine."

Apparently, there will not be a notion for a new trial, nor will the case be appealed to the United States Court of Appeals.