

Griffin Tells Court He Denounced Bund And Fought Klan

Publisher Fights Removal To D. C. for Trial in Army Morale Case

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Nov. 7.—William Griffin, publisher of the New York Enquirer, fighting removal proceedings to Washington, yesterday denied he had ever been a member of the Ku Klux Klan, the Black Legion, the German-American Bund or the American First Committee.

Griffin is wanted in Washington for trial on an indictment charging he and 27 others conspired to undermine the morale of United States armed forces. The indictment lists many organizations which are charged with opposing the war effort and to which the defendants were said to belong.

Griffin said heatedly at one point during the hearing before United States Commissioner Garret W. Cotter: "If any newspaper in this city or the country ever denounced the German-American Bund more than I did, I would like to see it."

Headline Is Shown.

His counsel offered in evidence a copy of the Enquirer for June 6, 1941, the headline of which read:

"Wins highest award for journalism—barred from Germany by Himmler and Goering."

Griffin also produced copies of his newspaper containing an alleged expose of German activities in Mexico, and testified that he had always opposed Fascism.

On the issue of the Ku Klux Klan, he stated he was a Roman Catholic and "as such I have fought the Ku Klux Klan because of its attitude toward Catholics, Jews and Negroes."

Griffin testified that before Pearl Harbor, his newspaper had opposed United States' entry into the war, but "after Pearl Harbor, the policy of my newspaper was all-out for a successful war."

Denies All Charges.

The publisher denied all charges in the indictment, some of which dealt with mailing of letters and publications, and denied that he had conspired with any of the other 27 indicted.

He acknowledged knowing three of his co-defendants, among them George Sylvester Viereck. Viereck recently was convicted in Washington of failure to inform the State Department that he was acting as an agent of Germany. Proceedings were adjourned until Thursday.