

Oust Winchell, Rep. Hoffman Urges F. D. R.

Quotes Columnist's Charge Sen. Reynolds Aided Nazi Defender

By WILLARD EDWARDS

Walter Winchell, purveyor of gossip about the private lives of prominent citizens, was accused in the House yesterday of spreading reports which give aid and comfort to the enemy.

Winchell has been under fire in Congress for use of his commission and uniform of a Navy lieutenant commander to help him garner juicy tidbits in Broadway night clubs which he prints in his syndicated column and broadcasts weekly by radio.

Quotes Radio Attack

Representative Clare E. Hoffman (R.), of Michigan, himself one of the targets for abuse by Winchell, told members that the cabaret commander in a Sunday night broadcast attacked Senator Robert R. Reynolds (D.), of North Carolina, chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee.

Hoffman quoted Winchell as asserting that Gerald L. K. Smith, whom he identified as a pro-German propagandist, had "received the written support of the chairman of the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate."

"Think of it!" said Hoffman. "This Winchell is an officer of the Navy and members of the Naval Affairs Committee tell me he is on the staff of the President himself. Let him produce the record if that is not correct. This Winchell announces that a pro-Axis propagandist has received the written support of the chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee. Is that not good news to Hitler? Let the President get rid of this man who is spreading that kind of propaganda."

Denounced by Army

A week ago, Winchell was accused by an Army spokesman of broadcasting rumors "detrimental to the armed forces of the United States." This was after Winchell had broadcast slurs upon an officer in the Army. The spokesman said that "Further publicity on this matter is contrary to the military interests."

Sometime ago, the Naval Affairs Committee heard that Winchell was to be ordered into active duty or relinquish his uniform and commission. But no announcement of action towards this objective has been made.

Hoffman informed the House that he had appeared again yesterday morning before a District of Columbia Grand Jury investigating Axis propaganda in the United States. He had previously been summoned after a copy of a House speech he made entitled "Don't Haul Down the Stars and Stripes" and condemning efforts to include the United States in a world federation of nations had been mailed out by an agent reportedly representing a subversive group.

Accuses Maloney

Hoffman at that time condemned Special Prosecutor William P. Maloney as "a smear artist" who had boasted he was out to "get all Republican isolationists." Maloney called this charge an "unmitigated lie."

The Michigan Representative said he was asked yesterday to tell the Grand Jury where he got his information about Maloney's alleged remarks. He said a clerk in his office, Miss Boyer, had been given the information by a man named Ahearn, a Washington resident. Ahearn, called before the jury, denied he had quoted the prosecutor to Miss Boyer, Hoffman said.

"I am making this statement at Maloney's request," Hoffman told the House. "But I am not retracting nor apologizing. I repeat that Maloney, with perhaps the exception of Charlie Michelson (Democratic National Committee press agent) is an expert smear artist."

Hoffman said he was turning down all requests for purchase of quantities of his "Stars and Stripes" speech except to those personally known to him. He has received checks, money orders and cash for tens of thousands of copies, he said, but is returning the money because of the misuse of copies by third parties.