

Hoffman Goes Before Jury

Michigan Isolationist
Complains Chief Investigator
Is 'Smear Artist'

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WASHINGTON, Apr. 14.—Rep. Clare Hoffman (R., Mich.) roared like a lion in the House yesterday about his "persecution" at the hands of the Administration, but later testified like a lamb before the Federal Grand Jury investigating Nazi propaganda.

Raising a point of personal privilege, Hoffman told his colleagues that Special Prosecutor William P. Maloney, who is in charge of the Grand Jury investigation, was a "smear artist" who had boasted that he would keep his investigation going long enough to defeat isolationists in the forthcoming Congressional elections. Maloney denied that he had ever said any such thing or that he had any such thought.

Majority Leader John W. McCormack (D, Mass.), interrupted Hoffman to demand that he give the source of his information about Maloney's supposed boast. Hoffman refused, saying he didn't want his informant subpoenaed.

Strange Companions

Hoffman also was interrupted by Rep. Clifton A. Woodrum (D., Va.), who wanted to know how it happened that two speeches Hoffman delivered on the floor and later had reprinted in quantity were distributed by subversive organizations.

Here the explanation was that he had merely given permission to two unnamed women to circulate copies in his district.

Hoffman denied under questioning that he had called President Roosevelt "a Judas." Examination of reprints of his speech entitled *Roosevelt Is a Judas* contained this passage:

"Ever since the President had his conference with Churchill on the high seas, we have been hearing from editorial writers, radio commentators and New Deal spokesmen of the United Nations. Now comes a member of the President's Cabinet, Ickes; a member of the Supreme Court, Roberts, both of whom have sworn to uphold the Constitution, and add their indorsement to the Judas-like betrayal of our people. . . ."

"If the gentleman did not call him a Judas," Woodrum commented, "that is about the only thing the gentleman has not called the President." (Under House rules all members are supposed to refer to all other members as gentlemen. Woodrum is meticulous.)

Charles Hudson, editor of an anti-Semitic publication in the Middle West, who is now in jail for contempt, mailed Hoffman's speeches by the hundreds under Congressional frank. With the speech went a card which is considered seditious.

Hoffman appeared before the grand jury twice and probably will be summoned again. Another witness was Gerald Winrod, the so-called Jayhawk Hitler, who has announced that he will run for the U. S. Senate again this year. What Hoffman and Winrod told the grand jury was not, of course, disclosed.

POCKET PROFILE



Clare E. Hoffman, 66, a Republican lawyer, has kept himself in Congress as Representative of the 4th Michigan District since 1935 at the expense of national unity.

From the day he took his seat, Hoffman started driving a wedge between the Nation's farmers and workers. Appealing to the prejudices of his agricultural constituency, he has fought against all social reforms intended to better the lot of the urban workers.

"The farmers won't stand for this, they'll get their pitchforks and come into town," is a favorite remark of his.

In the international field, although he had the advantage of a Washington observation post, Hoffman consistently preached isolationism. When Pearl Harbor exploded his bunk, he was for unity for a little while, but he's back sniping again.

He called the AEF to Northern Ireland "a suicide squad" and in voting on a war appropriations bill said:

"The President is Commander-in-Chief and he asks us for this money. If we know he is going to waste four-fifths of it, what can we do other than vote for it?"

Hoffman likes to question other people's "sincerity." Here's a sample of his own: he shouted about the Hitler menace, to justify labor curbs, while he was voting against any aid to Great Britain to fight this menace.

There is a movement by Michigan labor leaders and progressives to enter Carl Sandburg against Hoffman in the Fall election. They believe that the vigorous democracy of Sandburg, whose poetry is deeply rooted in Midwest soil, will be more appealing to Michigan farmers than Hoffman's demagoguery.