

Axis Probe Questions Hoffman Who Charges 'Smear'

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CONGRESSMAN AT COURTHOUSE—Representative Clare Hoffman (right) and his secretary, Helen Boyer, as they left the chambers of the special grand jury on Axis agents yesterday

Point of 'Personal Privilege' Raised; President Attacked

By Dillard Stokes
Post Staff Writer

Representative Clare E. Hoffman yesterday was questioned twice before the special grand jury on Axis agents, and there were indications that the grand jurors will call him back before they finish their investigation of enemy-inspired propaganda.

Hoffman said to the House that was delaying giving his evidence, because he wanted to raise a point of "personal privilege" in the House, where he professed to discuss recent disclosures about the kind of people who have been sending out official copies of his "Roosevelt is a Judas" speech.

During an hour of invective on the floor of the House the scowling isolationist Republican from Michigan attacked President Roosevelt, condemned advocates of "Union Now," called Special Prosecutor William Power Maloney a "smear artist" and hinted that The Post found out things it had no business knowing, in the course of an investigation of defeatist activities in which his speech was found involved.

Doesn't Refer to Some Points

However, the shouting Hoffman had not himself a word to say—not a whisper—about three items:

The mailing of his "Roosevelt Is a Judas" speech in the same wrapper with the bulletin from the nameless leaders of a revolutionist group who urged their members to buy guns and ammunition.

The mailing of his speech by Charles E. Hudson, Jew-baiting, anti-British agitator, in the same envelope with a seditious postcard and an offer to sell copies of the Hoffman speech in wholesale lots.

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 . . ."

Hoffman did not read this paragraph, as he did others about other persons, when he was telling the House yesterday that his address . . . contains "our reference to



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The offering for sale of two pamphlets written by Hoffman, by the editor of a pro-Nazi maga-

zine published in California.

These have been revealed by The Post in the last few days.

Fish Comes to Rescue

Once, when Hoffman was hard-pressed by questions from Majority Leader John McCormack, Representative Hamilton Fish came to his rescue, Hamilton Fish—who instructed his secretary to handle a franked mailing for the German agent, George Sylvester Viereck, and who saw the secretary go to prison for perjury about Viereck, and about depositing some concealed evidence in the storeroom used by Fish on Capitol Hill.

Members who invoke "personal privilege" usually exhibit what has been printed about them, so that members of the House may know what is being "replied" to.

Hoffman, however, selected four mild paragraphs from two out-of-town papers. Both publications referred to the "Roosevelt is a Judas" speech and to the use of 30,000 of Hoffman's franks by Viereck's Nazi propaganda organization.

Subtitled 'A Judas'

Hoffman gave his speech the subtitle, "A Judas," and in the course of it he said:

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 . . ."

Hoffman did not read this paragraph, as he did others about other persons, when he was telling the House yesterday that his address did not contain "any reference to the President as a Judas."

Clashes With Woodrum

"I did not do any such thing," Hoffman emphasized when Representative Clifton A. Woodrum (Democrat), of Virginia, commented, "I think it may probably be assumed you meant to class them with Judas."

"If the gentleman did not call him a Judas," Woodrum snapped, "that is about the only thing the gentleman has not called the President."

It was Woodrum who broke into Hoffman's diatribe and brought up the strange company in which The Post found some of the 145,000 reprints Hoffman ordered from the Government Printing Office.