

Pro-Jap Held In Kansas City For Sedition

F-H 12/14/41
Asked Impeachment
Of F. D., Congress
In Letter to Dingell

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 13 (U.P.).
Herman D. Kissenger, a Kansas City attorney who was described as "a long-time sympathizer" of the German and Japanese governments, tonight was charged with violation of the 1917 Federal Sedition Act for a letter which he wrote to Representative John D. Dingell (D.), of Michigan, shortly after the United States went into war this week.

United States District Attorney Maurice Milligan took Kissenger into custody charging him with violating the act by making false reports and statements with the intent to interfere with the operation of the military and naval forces of the United States.

Certain offensive sections of the letter were cited by Milligan as designed specifically by Kissenger "to promote the success of this nation's enemies."

The letter was written to Dingell in Washington on December 9. The offending passages, cited by Milligan, were:

"I think it is the Congress and President who ought to be court-martialed, that is, impeached. Through the press I have warned that the Administration of Roosevelt and Bloom (Representative Sol Bloom (D.), of New York) would prove to be as incompetent as the popular front government of Daladier and Blum that undermined the morale of France."

"... It was no surprise, therefore, that their (the United States') airmen in Hawaii were sleeping as soundly as cats curled before a warm stove instead of being in the air, scouting for enemy approaches and warn (sic) airfields in time to allow them to rise for combat."

Milligan, in the complaint, said that the statements by Kissenger were intended to bring disrepute and contumely upon the President of the United States and the Congress.

Milligan said the arrest of Kissenger probably marked the first time the Sedition Act had been invoked in the United States since the outbreak of the war.