

Writer Enters Guilty Plea as Foreign Agent

T-H 3/28/41
Ralph Townsend Faces

Two-Year Term for Failure to Register

Faced with a possible maximum sentence of two years' imprisonment and a \$1,000 fine, Ralph Townsend, Scribner's Commentator writer, pleaded guilty in District Court yesterday to a charge of failing to register properly as a foreign propaganda agent.

The Government, through Albert E. Arent and Arthur B. Caldwell, special assistants to the Attorney General, announced it would nolle prosequere another count in the indictment against Townsend, charging him with conspiracy to violate the Foreign Agents Registration Act as a Japanese agent and propagandist.

Townsend in Court

Townsend, who is free under \$5,000 bond, appeared in court with his attorney, Francis W. Hill jr. Justice T. Alan Goldsborough agreed to a request by Hill that the case be referred to a probation officer.

Government intention to drop the conspiracy charge against Townsend exempts him from a trial on May 11 in which he had been scheduled to appear with two San Francisco publicity men and one Japanese.

Linked With Japanese

Indictments against the defendant grew out of accusations that he was connected with a Japanese trade body in California, which was promoted and financed by the Japanese government through its San Francisco consul.

It appeared last night that Townsend will not come up before Justice Goldsborough for sentencing until after the Easter court recess.