

Winrod's 'Contest' Is Called Lottery

Wichita Editor
Warned to Stop
Printing Questions

By Dillard Stokes
Post Staff Writer

Gerald B. Winrod's scheme to camouflage his dissident propaganda as a "prize contest" was nipped yesterday by the Postoffice Department, which invoked the lottery laws.

The propaganda device disappeared from the June issue of Winrod's magazine, *The Defender*, after he was warned that any further mention of the "contest" would bring an order barring the publication from the mails.

Winrod claims 50,000 circulation for *The Defender*, which he issues every month from Wichita, Kans.

After Pearl Harbor, *The Defender* began printing questions, of which there were to be 50 in all. A number of answers were suggested for each question, the contestant to pick out the right one. Some were questions for which the answers could be found in the Bible or in the history books. For example, "Who said, am I my brother's keeper?" and "Name one President who was impeached."

New Trend in May

With his May issue, Winrod introduced a new trend.

"Prior to December 7, why was the press of America not free?" he asked, thus suggesting that such was the case. The answers offered the reader blamed Government control, censorship, labor unions, advertisers and the like.

"Why is Dr. Gerald B. Winrod NOT pro-Nazi?" the contest question asked.

These questions and others like them appeared designed to implant firmly in the minds of Winrod's claimed 50,000 subscribers the belief that the press is not free, that Winrod is not a pro-Nazi and other notions agreeable to Winrod.

The Post pointed out the nature and probable purpose of this scheme on May 28.

Contestants were invited to send \$2.50—5 cents for each question as *The Defender* put it—with their answers. The grand prize was \$500, which increased to \$1000 if a subscription accompanied the entry, and to \$1500 if the entry had been made before April 30.

Probe Resumes Tomorrow

Since the freedom of the press and Winrod's being or not being a pro-Nazi are not matters of fact for which authority can be found in works of reference or elsewhere, the authorities took the view that the contestants were being invited to guess which of the suggested answers Winrod's judges would prefer.

This made the scheme a lottery, the postal attorney ruled. The Wichita postmaster was ordered to examine the next issue of *The Defender*, and to throw it out of the mails if there was any further reference to the contest. Winrod was notified of the order.

Meanwhile, the defeatist press investigation will be resumed here tomorrow by Special Prosecutors William Power Malony, Lieut. Richard J. Hickey, jr., U. S. Navy, and John T. M. Reddan.

The Herald Publishing Co. of Newton, Kans., which produced Winrod's magazine, has been ordered to produce all its files dealing with *The Defender* and copies for the last three years.