

House to Bar Smear Talks From Record

By WILLARD EDWARDS

The smear utterances of Walter Winchell, Broadway gossip, and other purveyors of innuendo about the loyalty of Congressmen, will henceforth be banned from the Congressional Record, an applauding House was informed yesterday.

Democratic Majority Leader McCormack (D.), of Massachusetts, joined in the chorus of resentment against use of the daily record of Capitol Hill proceedings to publicize slanderous accusations involving Senators and Representatives.

Denounced in Debate

Senator Guffey (D.), of Pennsylvania, and Representative Eberharter (D.), of Pennsylvania, known as among the most servile New Dealers in Congress, were denounced in debate for abuse of the privilege which permits the reprinting of statements by non-members in the Record.

Representatives Hoffman (R.), of Michigan, and Rankin (D.), of Mississippi, announced that they would hereafter object to all requests to insert in the Record speeches, broadcasts, or articles written or voiced by Winchell. John Roy Carlson, author of "Under Cover," and other members of what Representative Martin Dies (D.), of Texas, has labeled the smear band.

Since such requests require unanimous consent, objection by one member is sufficient to deny them. Rankin immediately made his promise good by objecting to the request of Representative Kennedy (D.), of New York, to insert a Winchell broadcast.

New Yorker Rebuked

Rankin did not object to Kennedy's request to insert remarks on the death of Cardinal O'Connell of Boston and a speech by James A. Farley but rebuked the New Yorker for associating such names with that of Winchell.

Hoffman introduced a resolution, which was referred to the Rules Committee for early action,

striking from the Record a statement by Carlson, alias Derounian, whose "Under Cover," Hoffman said, insinuates that 20 Senators and 41 Representatives are disloyal.

This statement had been placed in the Record April 20 by Representative Eberharter.

"Until some of those making such statements are haled before Congress and given an opportunity under oath to substantiate or withdraw their charges, they should not be permitted to spread their poison in the Record," declared Hoffman.

"If, after a full hearing, anyone

Discipline Demanded

in this House is found to be disloyal in the slightest degree, he should be expelled from this body. If this is a 'House of Reprehensibles,' as Winchell says, let the House leadership discipline the reprehensibles. Such accusations are an insult not only to the House but to the intelligence and loyalty of the people who send us here to represent them."

"I have not personally read 'Under Cover,'" interjected McCormack, "but there is no justification for impugning the loyalty of any member of this House. I vigorously resent such an imputation. I have disagreed many times with the gentleman from Michigan (Hoffman) but I have never impugned his patriotism."

Name Changed 7 Times

Rankin noted that Carlson, "who has changed his name seven times," was exposed by Representative Dies as "circulating subversive literature among our soldiers at the time of Pearl Harbor."

"How, in the name of God, Eberharter ever found it in his conscience to insert Carlson's statement in the Record is more than I can understand," he said. "Our Record is not to be made a common chariot for such loathsome, scurrilous attacks as inserted by Senator Guffey recently when he put in the statement of a notorious Communist."

Representative Klein (D.), of New York, had a speech scheduled in defense of Carlson. When he rose, many members left the floor. Hoffman made a point of order that a quorum was not present, and Representative Ramspeck (D.), of Georgia, hastily moved that the House adjourn. Klein was left in a vacant chamber.