

# Evidence Suppressed as Too Hot House May Expose Jap U. S. Activities in '33

By United Press

Evidence of early Japanese espionage activities and preparation for conquest of the United States may be brought to light if the House approves a resolution to open the 10-year-old sealed records of a special investigating committee, it was learned today.

The evidence—sealed in 1934 after its sensational nature resulted in a "lay off" order because friendly relations with Japan might be endangered—was unearthed by a special committee headed by Rep. John McCormack, now Democratic leader.

One committee member recalled that extended hearings on the West Coast revealed evidence that Jap-built fishing boats in California were equipped with torpedo tubes.

"There also was definite indication of Japanese efforts to secure charts of now-vital defense areas, and other espionage activity which presumably was groundwork for the planned conquest that started with Pearl Harbor," he said.

## SECRETED IN LIBRARY

The late Rep. Charles Kramer conducted the hearings on unfriendly Jap activities in his home state in 1933 and 1934.

After the "lay off" order—which members understood came from the State Department—Rep. Kramer caused the testimony to be placed with other secret records under seal in the Congressional Library. It was directed that

the seal be broken only upon passage of a House resolution authorizing such action.

Rep. McCormack introduced such a resolution this week at request of the Justice Department. A public hearing on the resolution will be held by the House Library Committee Monday, and sponsors planned to press for immediate approval.

Speed is essential because the Justice Department is especially interested in part of the record dealing with the early activities of George Sylvester Viereck, alleged Nazi agent, who comes up for retrial in Federal court shortly.

## FOMENTED FASCISM

Another section of the sealed record, it was understood, deals with unsuccessful attempts to interest prominent Americans in a Fascist movement in this country.

The records were accidentally rediscovered by Rep. Wright Patman (R. Tex.).

"I was working on reports that the German government was in possession

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## Jap Activities

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of certain United States Army plans, and was using them," Mr. Patman said, "and it appeared that the only way they could have got those plans would be thru an American Army officer.

"Then I recalled that an Army Reserve officer suspected of German affiliations had been investigated by the McCormack group. Searching for the committee records on this man, I came upon the sealed testimony on file in the library."