

And That's Not All:

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Miss Kellems Vows Action Against Coffee in Mail 'Lifting'

Warns Congress Her Accuser Is Guilty Of Serious Violation of Federal Law

By WILLIAM MOORE

Miss Viviean Kellems served notice on Congress yesterday that Representative Coffee (D.), of Washington, either has her private letters, intercepted in the United States mail, or knows who has them.

And interference with the mails, she reminded Congress, is a criminal offense.

Will Take Action

She did not call on Representative Coffee as a public official to bring those responsible to justice. But she said she would take the necessary steps herself, commenting, "I'm a woman of action."

Miss Kellems is a Westport, Conn., war goods manufacturer excerpts from whose mail Representative Coffee said he was reading when he attacked her last Friday in a speech on the House floor.

Miss Kellems, a slender, dimpled woman of youthful mien despite her 17 years as a manufacturer, came to Washington to consult with the Navy on the shell grips she makes for the war program,

not to reply to Coffee's accusation that she is corresponding with a Nazi "boy friend."

Senator Reed (R.), of Kansas, entertained her at lunch in the Senate with Miss Marion Martin, vice chairman of the Republican National Committee. Then he invited Miss Kellems to meet the press.

Didn't See Coffee

News of the luncheon quickly spread through the Capitol. Miss Kellems did not bump into Representative Coffee to tell him to his face what she told reporters—That he is "a coward, a sneaking coward who belongs in prison."

Representative Coffee, who frequently eats in the Senate dining room, lunched in the House restaurant.

Senator Reed introduced Miss

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Miss Kellems Threatens to Act Against Coffee

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Kellems at the press conference.

"She made a speech in Kansas City that irritated Henry Morgenthau," Reed said. "I'm for anyone who can irritate Henry."

Miss Kellems tossed her head, on which she wore a brown peaked hat with the feathers pointing down from the peak, instead of up, threw back her white fur jacket, and sailed into Coffee and Drew Pearson. Pearson is a radio gossip commentator who, she said, broadcast what he represented as excerpts from her letters.

Admits Writing Count

Miss Kellems frankly acknowledged a long correspondence-ship with Count ~~Fredrick Karl von~~ Zedlitz, now in Buenos Aires, but denied that Zedlitz is a Nazi agent, as charged by Coffee.

She said some of the count's letters to her have not been delivered, and that some of her letters to him are missing.

"I have not written to him," she said, "since I learned that the letters I put into the mail box went straight into Mr. Pearson's hands."

Miss Kellems linked Morgenthau with the story, after she was asked if the Treasury Department's internal revenue agents might be interested in her files since her speech in Kansas City

in which she attacked the income tax.

"Joy to Behold"

"The co-ordination and teamwork between Morgenthau, Coffee and Pearson," she said, "is a joy to behold."

Senator Reed interrupted once to suggest a congressional investigation of tampering with the mail, and commented:

"Congress might take a leaf from the Army and Navy book and require all members to be gentlemen as well as members."

The integrity of the United States mail," Miss Kellems told reporters, "is at stake. It is quite important to know when we mail a letter that it is not going to get into the hands of a radio commentator or a Congressman."

She flatly denied Coffee's assertion that she had made "seditious" remarks, and termed Coffee's accusations "lies," her voice rising when she read from his speech:

"Benedict Arnold fought in the

Revolutionary War—but he, too, was a traitor."

She said Zedlitz is a South American representative of a German metal firm she identified as "Metallgesellschaft," but denied

that he had ever been a member of the Nazi party. Reporters commented aloud that he would have difficulty keeping his job if he were not a party member.

Coffee has charged that Miss Kellems intends to marry Zedlitz. Asked if she were engaged to the Count, she answered:

"How can you be engaged to a man who never asked you to marry him?"

She said she met the Count in the United States in 1935.

Miss Kellems neither identified nor disclaimed as hers the quotations which Coffee told the House were excerpts from her letters. She said she wished to see the letters concerned before identifying the quotations as hers.

Miss Kellems explained that she has written Coffee, asking for

the letters if he has them, but has received no reply.

Miss Kellems went to considerable pains to deny that she advised taxpayers not to pay their income taxes in her Kansas City speech.

Instead, she insisted, she said

she did not have the money to pay her December 15 tax installment because her capital was all invested in materials to make war goods for the Army and Navy. She merely urged, she said, that manufacturers set aside reserves for the postwar period.