

Drop Immunity, Fight in Open, Miss Kellems Dares Coffee

Toronto, April 1 (P)—Vivien Kellems, Westport, Conn., manufacturer accused by Representative John M Coffee (D., Wash.), as the sweetheart of a Nazi agent, replied today with a challenge to the Congressman "to come out in the open and fight clean" by waiving his congressional immunity.

Declaring that such an accuser should be "publicly horse-whipped," Miss Kellems in a 500-word statement said to Coffee: "For the first time in my life I regret I am not a man so that I could take on the job and land you in the hospital all wrapped up in bandages."

Coffee read to the House yesterday what he said were love letters from Miss Kellems to Count Frederick Karl von Zedlitz. In her reply Miss Kellems said that as

early as 1941 she had made a full report to the FBI and the State Department on the count's activities.

Miss Kellems, who last year advised business men not to pay taxes but use the money to set up postwar reserves, challenged Coffee to "make those same statements outside where I can hale you into court, force you to prove them, or put you in prison where you belong."

Without revealing how he obtained them, Coffee read the letters to the House, one of which was signed "All My Love, Vivien." Her statement made a reference to a "Mr. 'Shrew' Pearson," and then said:

"Perhaps Mr. Dies can discover for the American people how letters from the United States mails See KELLEMS, Page 9, Column 2.

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come into the hands of a second-rate radio commentator and a pop-gun Congressman. If those letters are authentic, the last time I saw them was when I put them in a mail box."

Miss Kellems, who is here to discuss engineering details with her Canadian agents, said in her statement:

"Until now I have refused to make a statement regarding Count Zedlitz because there are some things that cannot be said until this war is over. Also, what I have to say is so important that I refuse to say it until I am before a congressional committee or in court where my testimony will be a matter of record.

Refers to FBI Report

"However, since Mr. Coward Coffee and Mr. Shrew Pearson are so insistent I will refer them both to the FBI. After my return from South America in the spring of 1941 I made a complete report to the FBI and again late in 1943 I gave the FBI additional valuable information regarding Count Zedlitz.

"I also submitted to the State Department a comprehensive report on his activities both before the war and up to the present time."

Coffee declared Miss Kellems is a "menace to the American war effort" and that she is involved in an "Incredible conspiracy."

Her statement said:

"Your vicious Nazi smear technique of the New Deal has been successful in silencing other American citizens who have dared to differ with the views of the pres-

ent Administration. But since I have nothing to conceal I am not afraid and all your fulminating and personal abuse will not swerve me from my purpose which is to effect the repeal of the income tax and to persuade Congress to pass some sensible tax laws."

In Washington today, Coffee made this comment on the Kellems statement:

"I do not care to engage in an adjective fight with her. The public can judge the case by the nature of the adjectives already used."

Drew Pearson, radio commentator, made this statement:

"The lady doth protest too much. Last winter, when I first told her about her mash notes to Count Von Zedlitz, she denied she knew him. A week later she admitted knowing him but called him 'just a friend.' Now she admits more but alibis that she reported her romance to the FBI. The public can take its pick of her different stories. I have my own ideas."