

Kellems Case May Occasion Censor Probe

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Several members of the Senate's Post Offices and Post Roads Committee are urging a congressional inquiry into the "intercepts" system operated by the Office of Censorship, Senator Clyde M. Reed (R., Kans.), ranking minority member, said yesterday.

Reed is expected to announce today that he will introduce a resolution calling for such an investigation as soon as Congress returns from recess.

His interest in the "intercepts" system, under which Censorship copies all or parts of letters sent outside the United States and circulates them to any agencies of Government here which might be interested, was aroused by the case of Vivien Kellems, Connecticut war plant owner.

In Congressional Record

Parts of her letters, written to Count Frederick Karl von Zedlitz, German steel trust agent in Argentina, were first made public by Drew Pearson and then placed in the Congressional Record by Representative John M. Coffee (D., Wash.).

The "intercepts" question already has caused enough of a storm in the Senate to have a Senate bill permitting censorship in Alaska recalled and killed in 1942.

There appears to be a considerable legal question involved in whether the "intercepts" system has any statutory authority.

The letters, which Miss Kellems said she last saw when she placed them in a mail box in Westport, Conn., found their way into private as well as congressional hands.

Although addressed to a German whose name is on the British black list, the letters appeared to be only expressions of affection.

The Justice Department has indicated that the letters contained nothing of a subversive nature.