

She Calls Coffee 'Liar'

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Senate May Be Asked to Probe Leak of Miss Kellems' Letters

The United States Senate may be called upon to investigate how love letters exchanged between a woman manufacturer in Connecticut and a German count in Argentina came to be intercepted and made public.

Vivien Kellems, Westport war plant owner, yesterday charged on Capitol Hill that the integrity of the U. S. mails had been violated by disclosure of correspondence between her and Count Karl von Zedlitz, Argentine agent for the German steel trust.

Her charges were made under the wing of Senator Clyde M. Reed (R., Kans.) ranking minority member of the Senate Committee on Postoffices and Post Roads, who said he was considering introducing a resolution calling for an investigation. Miss Kellems asserted she had protested to Postmaster General Frank C. Walker, but had received no answer. Later the Post-office Department said her protest had not been received there.

Miss Kellems told reporters at a press conference in Reed's office that she had known the count since 1935, and had exchanged letters with him until about two months ago, when Drew Pearson, columnist and commentator, discussed her correspondence over the radio.

"I have never written him (Von Zedlitz) since I learned that letters went from my mailbox in Westport, Conn., straight into the hands of

Drew Pearson," said the woman industrialist and tax battler wrathfully.

"I don't quite see the sense of writing to Mr. Pearson via the Argentine."

It was, however, clear that Miss Kellems has had some means of communication with the count, for she said that a couple of her letters to him, and his to her, never had been delivered.

Miss Kellems, looking like a Dresden doll on the war path, tore into Representative John M. Coffee (D., Wash.), who recently read excerpts from her letters into the Congressional Record, with the same biting fervor she once used to attack Representative Clare Boothe Luce (R., Conn.), who opposed her in the Connecticut primaries, and won.

Just as a sample, she called Coffee "a coward, a sneaking coward, and a liar." Reed gave her a helping hand. Tossing congressional courtesy to the winds, he suggested that possibly Congress should adopt the same rules as the Army and Navy, namely, that of "officers and gentlemen."

Miss Kellems insisted that Coffee was "a liar" in intimating that she was—or had been—subversive, or had sabotaged the war effort.

She did not deny the authenticity of the excerpts he placed in the record. She said she would have to see the letters in full before she could tell whether she had written

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under Hitler, controls the German steel industry.

Symphony in Brown

Miss Kellems was a symphony in brown and beige, and wore what certainly looked like two-thread nylon hose. She is about 5 feet tall and weighs possibly a little less than 100 pounds.

She's pretty, and she doesn't look 46, or give the appearance of a

shrewd industrialist capable of making trouble for Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau on the tax issue—at least not until she narrows her eyes in decided anger.

Her capacity for annoying Morgenthau is what first drew Reed's approval, he disclosed. He said he was prepared to admire "anybody who could make Morgenthau as mad as Morgenthau makes me."

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them.

Asked if she were engaged to Count von Zedlitz, Miss Kellems lowered her sparkling blue eyes, and said:

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

One of the excerpts of her letters Coffee put in the record discussed the prediction of an astrologist that Miss Kellems would play a part in international affairs.

"How could that be if I am not married to you?" read her letter to Count von Zedlitz.

Law Violation Charged

Miss Kellems thought Coffee

should be forced to disclose violated Federal statutes by tampering with the United States mails, getting her letters and turning them over for the edification of readers of the Congressional Record.

"It's not terribly important to one person," she said, "but it is terribly important that United States citizens know that their correspondence will not go into the hands of radio commentators and Congressmen."

Miss Kellems was asked if Count von Zedlitz was a Nazi agent, as had been charged by Coffee, and the British government, which had placed him on a black list.

"He is not a member of the Nazi Party," she said.

The tall, handsome German baron represents the Metallgesellschaft, German steel trust, in the Argentine. It was recalled yesterday that Herman Wilhelm Goering, No. 2 Nazi