

By Senator Reed

Army, Navy Censorship Probe Asked

By Mary Spargo

An inquiry into reports that the Army and the Navy are conducting domestic censorship of mail at Army posts and Navy stations will be proposed by Senator Clyde M. Reed (R., Kans.) after the Easter recess, he disclosed yesterday.

Reed said he would ask for the investigation by the Senate Committee on Post Roads and Post Offices at the same time that he requests a study of how the correspondence of Miss Vivien Kellems, Connecticut manufacturer, to Baron Frederick Karl von Zedlitz, German agent of the steel trust in Argentina, became public.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that the Office of Censorship and the Justice Department disagree on interpretation of the Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917.

Justice Department's View

Byron Price, director of censorship, recently asserted that a provision of the act was involved in the case.

The Justice Department, how-

ever, yesterday contended that it would take a proclamation by the President to make the act apply in this case, and that even were such a proclamation now issued it would have no bearing on the case unless correspondence, which now has ceased, were resumed.

The Office of Censorship maintains that any correspondence with the enemy or an ally of the enemy is contrary to the act unless the United States citizen has a license from censorship.

The catch seems to be, according to some interpretations, that Baron von Zedlitz is not an enemy or an ally of an enemy under the definitions set forth in the act.

Another Catch Appears

There's another catch, too, which a scrutiny of the Trading With the Enemy Act discloses. Throughout the document reference is made to the enemies of World War I, and there is some question as to whether the act is now valid, particularly in view of the fact that a separate censorship statute was passed in the First War Powers Act in 1941.

Meanwhile Miss Kellems, around whose head is raging a controversy over censorship and interpretation of the laws of the United States, is distressed because male reporters don't describe her clothes accurately.

She wrote Reed yesterday as follows:

"It is always amusing to read what newspaper reporters think of me but after this don't you think we should have the women reporters describe my clothes to the men reporters? No woman would have called my fur jacket 'white.'"

P. S.—It was natural lynx and the unnamed male reporter must have been blind.