

Kelly Fined \$500 In Court Here As Alien Agent

~~J.H. 8-4-43~~
John Eoghan Kelly, 50, consulting engineer of New York and San Francisco, found guilty in District Court May 29 of failing to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, was fined \$500 yesterday by Justice James W. Morris, trial judge.

Specifically, Kelly was charged with being a paid propagandist of the Franco Spanish government while ostensibly employed by the Spanish Library of Information in New York for two years prior to February 1, 1942.

Charges by Government

The Government charged in an indictment of Kelly returned last March 1 that this organization is subsidized directly by the government of Spain and is a branch of the National Press Bureau of the Spanish Bureau of the Spanish Department of the Interior.

Attorney General Biddle, when the Grand Jury returned a true bill against Kelly, made it clear that neither the Spanish government nor the Library of Information was implicated. The latter, he said, had complied with the Foreign Agents Registration Act. It was the first time the Alien Registration Act had been invoked against a representative of a friendly nation.

Gathered by FBI

Evidence against Kelly was assembled by the FBI and prepared for presentation to the Grand Jury

by the Special War Policies Unit of the Department of Justice.

Kelly was brought here for trial from San Francisco. Justice officials said Kelly for 10 years had been prominently identified with various national organizations as publicist.

Between 1936 and 1939 Kelly made two trips to Germany and Spain. On his return from Spain, officials said, he became an enthusiastic supporter of the Franco government.