

'What Is This, the Gestapo?'

Asks Novelist FBI Checked

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Rose Wilder Lane

Has Two Sons in Armed Services

By the Associated Press

Danbury, Conn., Aug 9.—A postcard on which Mrs. Rose Wilder Lane, novelist and mother of two sons in the armed services, expressed dissatisfaction with Social Security laws and attributed them to German origin, caused the FBI to investigate, it was learned today, and brought from her a pamphlet entitled, "What Is This—the Gestapo?"

A further complication was introduced by the fact that Mrs. Lane's signature on the card had been misinterpreted as "C. G. Lang."

The card had been addressed to Samuel Grafton, New York newspaper columnist, and was mailed last spring in comment on a radio address Grafton had made praising Social Security.

Wrote Pamphlet

Shortly afterward a State policeman interrogated her about the card, said Mrs. Lane, and, as a result of the incident, she wrote a pamphlet, just distributed by the National Economic Council, Inc., of New York which, among other things, demanded to know, "Who is obstructing the delivery of American mail?"

Today Richard Simons of the FBI said the investigation had been undertaken "after receipt of information of such a nature that it left us no choice but to inquire into the identity of Mrs. C. G. Lang."

Mrs. Lane, whose published works include "The Making of Herbert Hoover," said her chief quarrel was with Social Security. "Social Security is national socialism," she declared today.

"No one could hate the Germans more than I do. I have two boys in the service, one of whom I believe to be in a concentration camp."

Here is what Mrs. Lane said she recalled having written to Grafton:

"Bismarck instituted in Germany all of the so-called social security measures now in effect that are advocated here. The Germans have had these since Bismarck's time. These measures were largely responsible for the collapse of the German republic and Hitler is enforcing them all now."

"It will bewilder the Germans if, after we conquer them, we send them teachers to teach them these measures that they have had for 70 years."

Although today she told news-



ROSE WILDER LANE

men that the State trooper who interrogated her at the request of the FBI had been "very polite," extracts from her pamphlet, written in the third person, put matters somewhat differently:

"You do not like my attitude," she said she told him in answer to his observation to that effect.

"Is This the Gestapo?"

"I am an American citizen. I hire you. And you have the insolence to question my attitude. The point is that I don't like your attitude. What is this—the Gestapo?"

At another point she said she had demanded of the trooper if what she had written was "subversive activity" and when he allegedly said it was, she reported:

"Then I'm subversive as hell. I'm against all this so-called social security."

She told him her views the pamphlet related and added, "write that down and report it to your superiors."

"Oh, no, no, I won't do that," the trooper was said to have replied. "I'll report that you're a writer. If you'd signed your professional name to that postcard, I wouldn't have bothered you."

The National Economic Council, Inc., is described by its officers as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization formed this year from the former New York State Economic Council, with the announced purposes, among others, to protect the interests of taxpayers and preserve and strengthen American enterprise.