

Le Clair Admits Guilt As Japanese Agent; Faces 12-Year Term

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Sept. 9. — John S. Le Clair, 41, former instructor in New York and New Jersey colleges, pleaded guilty yesterday to a Federal grand jury indictment charging him with action as an unregistered

agent of the Japanese government. Federal Judge J. W. Waring released Le Clair in \$5,000 bail pending imposition of sentence September 22. Assistant United States Attorney Max D. Novak said the maximum penalty fixed by law was 12 years' imprisonment and \$30,000 fine.

The indictment charged Le Clair conspired with Shintaro Fukishima, press attache of the Japanese Embassy in Washington; Kyuskike Hoshide, assistant to the treasurer of the Japanese consulate here, and Shinichi Kondo, vice consul in New York. The Japanese government representatives were not named as defendants in the indictment.

As part of the conspiracy, the indictment charged Le Clair wrote pro-Japanese articles and procured publication of them in magazines. Le Clair was employed from July, 1938, to March, 1941, by the Japanese, E. E. Conroy, head of the New York FBI office, said.

Le Clair was paid \$500 a month by the Japanese Consulate in New York from July, 1938, to December, 1939, for writing a syndicated column entitled "Comments and Forecasts," which contained two pro-Japanese articles a month, Mr. Conroy charged. The column was distributed to more than 200 newspapers in the United States, Mr. Conroy said.

Mr. Conroy also said that from April, 1938, to March, 1941, Le Clair wrote special articles at the request of the Japanese and his activity as a propaganda agent netted him more than \$12,000.