

# Winchell Broadcasts Cause Brief Furor On Floor of House

By the Associated Press.

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Tempers rose to a high pitch, and for a brief period the House was near pandemonium today in a row over the truth or falsity of Walter Winchell's radio broadcasts.

Representative Hoffman, Republican, of Michigan touched off the acrimonious exchanges with a renewal of his contention that "the truth just isn't in" Mr. Winchell.

Chairman Sabath of the Rules Committee cut in to plead "the regular order of business" and Mr. Hoffman in a slashing retort, recommended that Mr. Sabath "defend Winchell" if he wants to.

At that point Mr. Sabath strolled over to Representative Eberharter, Democrat, of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Hoffman shouted that the "gentlemen apparently want some help."

### Eberharter Demands Respect.

Mr. Eberharter, flushed with anger, demanded that Mr. Hoffman "show some respect," and then asserted that all he said to Mr. Sabath was that Mr. Hoffman should be allowed to finish his tirade and the House get on with its business.

Mr. Sabath demanded that Mr. Hoffman's "words be taken down," which means expunging from the record, and added that Mr. Eberharter did not "tell me to keep still."

"Well, I'll take the word of the gentleman from Pennsylvania as to what he told you," Mr. Hoffman shouted back.

Minority Leader Martin cut in to insist that Mr. Sabath's request to strike out Mr. Hoffman's words had come too late.

### Others Leap to Feet.

Three or four other members leaped to their feet with other requests and Majority Leader McCormack, substituting for Speaker Rayburn, coolly observed:

"The chair hopes that clarifies the atmosphere."

The tension broke with a roar of laughter.

The exchange broke out as Mr. Hoffman, continuing the controversy between Mr. Winchell and certain members of Congress, asked for a Justice Department report on two women he said formerly were employed by Mr. Winchell's radio sponsor.

His resolution in the House asked Attorney General Biddle to advise Congress whether Elfrieda Margaret Siddell was interned or confined "as an enemy alien or for any other reason," and whether the Justice Department had taken any action against Hedwig Engemann.

### Information Asked.

Mr. Hoffman's resolution asked whether Miss Siddell has been released, and also what recommendations have been received by the Justice Department or filed in the



**RADIO DUELISTS MEET**—Columnist Walter Winchell (left) met Representative Dies, Democrat, of Texas in what appears to have been a friendly atmosphere in the reception room of Station WMAL last night after Mr. Dies followed Mr. Winchell on the air to reply to statements made by the columnist and radio commentator about him and his Committee on Un-American Activities.

—A. P. Photo.

courts in behalf of either of the two women and if any were filed by whom?

In previous speeches on the floor, Mr. Hoffman had said Miss Siddell was secretary to Andrew Jergens and Miss Engemann a maid in his home.

Mr. Winchell and Mr. Dies, meeting outside the separate studios from which they broadcast last night, carried on the feud without benefit of microphone.

"Let's get together and tell some more lies about each other," jibed Mr. Winchell.

"I'd have to go some to get even," Mr. Dies replied.

Before the broadcast Mr. Winchell said there were "rumors" in the radio business that the ban on any new charges or reviewing old ones was "the beginning of an appeasement campaign to get Winchell off the air."

"We'll have to see next Sunday night and the Sundays after that whether I still have freedom of the air," he said.

### Predicts Action in Congress.

In his regular spot news report and forecasts, preceding his formal discussion of his controversy with Mr. Dies, Mr. Winchell predicted

# Cochran Would Rename It 'House of Investigations'

By the Associated Press.

With proposals pending to create two more special investigating committees, the House today received a suggestion that it set up a committee to co-ordinate committees and then change its name to "the House of investigations."

"It's about time we slowed down on this thing of setting up special committees every time we turn around," Chairman Cochran of the Accounts Committee declared. "At the rate we are going now, we might as well refer to the House as the House of investigations."

Whimsically suggesting a "committee to co-ordinate committees," Representative Bulwinkle, Democrat, of North Carolina declared "it is unfortunate that we spend so much time investigating."

Representative Cochran is expected to elaborate on his views when the House considers legislation soon to create a special 21-man committee to study postwar military planning.

He estimated that special committees and investigations already are costing "more than a million dollars" a year and much of the work, he said, is "overlapping and duplication."

Aside from the Committee on Un-American Activities headed by Representative Dies, Democrat, of Texas, which has received more than half a million dollars for expenses, the House has groups investigating air navigation and commerce, civil service, the spread between the price paid to farmers for produce and the price paid by consumers, various phases of the war effort, newsprint, petroleum, Puerto Rico, wildlife conservation, the Federal Communications Commission, activities of executive agencies, the problems of small business and postwar economic planning.

In addition to the Postwar Military Planning Committee there is under consideration a committee to investigate foreign news dissemination by the Office of War Information.

that "several members of Congress today or tomorrow will introduce a resolution condemning alleged unauthorized use of the power of subpoena by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities."

In a "declaration of independence" Mr. Winchell asserted that "the history of liberty is the history of resistance to irresponsible men who happen to be armed with the powers of government."

In obvious reference to the Dies Committee's subpoena for transcripts of his broadcasts over the last two years, he asserted that "the power of Congress to subpoena is not the right of an individual Congressman to hold court" and that committee hearings may not be "used for the purposes of any Congressman."

"If any lawmaker thinks he is damaged personally," Mr. Winchell said, "he is guaranteed his full day in court. \* \* \* If any Congressman or Senator has information or evidence that I am guilty of activities against the United States Government let him run—not walk—to the nearest Federal grand jury or United States attorney."

## Reasserts Intention.

"Far from retracting a single statement," he said, "I reiterate every one of them. Far from apologizing for any action, I reaffirm that my conduct has been the product of my deliberate intention."

Mr. Dies began by saying he had asked for the radio time "because of certain false statements made about me and the Committee on Un-American Activities \* \* \* on this program."

But he said he was more interested in fixing American attention on the movement which he said was behind the charges. "These specialists in vilification," he said, "would not dare charge reputable men with sedition. But they have found a means by which, through innuendo and indirection, they can select a victim and smear him with the odium of treason while skirting the edge of the libel laws."

The basic process, he asserted, consists of finding a really guilty person and "then without charging you with that offense, they merely mention your name repeatedly in connection with his. They identify you with his guilt by indirection."

Mr. Dies said Mr. Winchell has discussed the recent sedition indictment of 30 persons in such a manner as to suggest "by innuendo \* \* \* that I am shielding Nazis and plot-

ting to divert attention from their trial" by timing a committee investigation of Mr. Winchell with the trial.

He cited committee statistics as refutation of a statement credited to Mr. Winchell that the group "has done nothing to expose American Fascist groups."

That tabulation included 178 witnesses since 1938 whose "testimony dealt wholly with Axis activities," "seven committee reports on Nazi, Fascist and Japanese agents here," and 5,597 visits from FBI, naval and military intelligence and other Government agents to obtain information from the Dies Washington office.

In the case of the 30 indicted on sedition charges Mr. Dies said Government agents had obtained from the committee 900 documents for use as evidence, consisting principally of their files, which the committee seized in 1938, 1939 and 1940.

"My crime," Mr. Dies said, "is my refusal to join in the conspiracy of character assassination by using the power of our committee to smear loyal citizens. It is my insistence on investigating as well Communist Party members and fellow travelers and those who echo the party line."

He asserted Mr. Winchell himself "is not important," but added, "he can be used as a transmission belt" and "in this case Mr. Winchell is being used \* \* \* to impugn the loyalty and to destroy the characters of American public men who oppose the objectives of these groups and to break down confidence in the Congress of the United States."

"We are going to find out," he said, "and tell you who is supplying the brains and who is paying the bills."