

Winchell Plans Suit Against Hoffman In Court Here Today

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, April 3.—Walter Winchell, after a radio broadcast last night in which he replied to charges made against him by Representative Dies, Democrat, of Texas announced he would file a libel suit for \$250,000 today against Representative Hoffman, Republican, of Michigan.

"It's the first suit I've ever filed against any one," the columnist declared.

He said the suit, to be filed in District Court in Washington, would be based on a letter from Mr. Hoffman to the editor of the *Marcellus* (Article) News.

Mr. Winchell quoted the letter as saying that Mr. Hoffman, through his pressure in the House, had had Mr. Winchell "stripped of his Navy uniform, stripped of his duties and stripped of his pay."

Letter Published Recently.

He said the letter had been published "very recently, after Hoffman had demanded that the Secretary of the Navy give the House the facts on Winchell's Navy status," and had received those facts.

Mr. Winchell is a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve on inactive duty.

"Hoffman carelessly forgot he was not protected by congressional immunity this time, Mr. Winchell asserted.

Mr. Hoffman said in Washington that "there isn't any law against filing a libel suit. Winchell ought to know more about libel suits than any one else."

Mr. Hoffman said he did not know anything about a letter to the *Marcellus* newspaper and added:

"I imagine it was a statement that appeared in the Congressional Record. The newspaper gets the Record."

In his broadcast over the Blue Network Mr. Winchell discussed 11 charges Mr. Dies had made against him.

Denies Smear Bund Exists.

"Mr. Dies told you that I was part of a smear bund," he declared. "The duty of Mr. Dies was to examine the smear bund, if any, while it was being incubated, not denounce it when it was full grown—and the reason Mr. Dies did not is that it never existed."

After the broadcast Mr. Winchell told newsmen his sponsors had cut out two major parts of his talk.

"I wanted to say to Mr. Dies, 'I have asked you for a subpoena for the last time—now I defy it,'" the columnist said. Mr. Winchell has asked repeatedly that he be allowed to answer the Dies charges before a congressional committee.

He also wanted to speak of congressional attacks on the Dies Committee, he said.

His actual broadcast he dismissed as "my idea of a boring, windy talk. * * * I did it reluctantly."

Mr. Winchell's sponsor, the Andrew Jergens Co., announced on the program that the Dies-Winchell controversy "is closed as far as this program is concerned."