

Winchell Defies Dies; *Star 3-14-44* Hoffman Raps FBI

The free-for-all verbal battle raging between a group of House members and some radio commentators reached a new crescendo today when Walter Winchell challenged Chairman Dies of the Committee Investigating Un-American Activities to call him here for questioning.

After an attack on him by Mr. Dies in a statement yesterday, Mr. Winchell was quoted by the Associated Press in a dispatch from Miami Beach as saying:

"I would be very happy to tell these men (Mr. Dies and his associates) to their faces things I have not been allowed to tell on the radio or in the newspapers. I have repeatedly asked to be brought to Washington for questioning."

Representative Hoffman, Republican, of Michigan charged yesterday in a 10,000-word speech that there was a concerted drive in progress "to override our form of government and convince our people that Franklin D. Roosevelt is the indispensable man."

Those who question this conclusion, he added, are subject to attack by "wolfpack smearers," among whom he named Mr. Winchell—calling him a "creator of falsehoods"—the New York PM and the Chicago Sun, both owned by Marshall Field; the Luce publications and others who he said are "more interested in other countries than in the welfare of America."

Mr. Hoffman recounted an alleged incident in which the FBI investigated a 17-year-old boy in Michigan because he had called a statement by Mr. Roosevelt an "untruth," and added that the organization could better use its time by exposing "the Walter Winchells who do so much to stir up disunity."