

# Winchell Scripts Bait-Snare 3/17/44 Ordered By Dies Group

Washington, March 17 (P)—  
Ordering an investigation of radio  
comment by Walter Winchell, the  
Dies Committee today issued a sub-  
poena on the Blue Network to pro-  
duce all scripts and recordings of  
the Winchell broadcasts for the  
last two years.

Robert E. Stripling, chief investi-  
gator for the committee, said the  
subpoena was issued to Mark  
Wood, New York, president of the  
network.

Chairman Dies (D., Texas) of  
the committee set up by the House  
to investigate un-American activi-  
ties, currently is engaged in a con-  
troversy with Winchell over the  
latter's Sunday-night broadcasts.

## Charges Made In House

Dies recently charged in the  
House that the newspaper column-  
ist and radio commentator was en-  
gaged in a campaign to "smear"  
Congress, and cited the commenta-  
tor's frequent references to Dies  
and other House members, not-  
ably Representatives Hoffman (R.,  
Mich.) and Rankin (D., Miss.).

Dies spoke to the House yester-  
day about Winchell, charging that  
he was disseminating "deliberately  
false statements," about the activi-  
ties of the Dies committee. He  
stated he had written Winchell and  
the Blue Network last December  
asking for a chance to prove this,  
by throwing open his files and

allowing the radio chain and the  
commentator "to be the jury." He  
asserted he never got a reply.

Hoffman similarly assailed the  
Winchell broadcasts in the House,  
asserting that the Andrew Jergens  
Company, of Cincinnati, paid Win-  
chell \$260,000 a year for his Sunday  
evening radio comment, and stat-  
ing:

## "Should Summon Jergens"

"For his own good and for the  
good of the country, the Dies com-  
mittee should summon Jergens to  
explain why he permits, why he  
sponsors the continuance of the  
vicious attacks upon Congress, upon  
those in the armed forces, by  
Winchell.

"In view of Winchell's record, it  
is pertinent to inquire of Jergens  
whether Winchell has any hold  
upon him, which prevents him from  
taking steps to curb his spokesman,  
his employe, in the face of mount-  
ing public indignation."

## Winchell's Comment

At Miami Beach Winchell de-  
manded, "Why don't they subpoena  
Winchell?" when he was informed  
of the committee's action.

"I have repeatedly asked to be  
called before this committee, or  
any Congressional group, to tell  
them things I am not permitted to  
say on the radio or in the news-  
papers.

They don't want me.

"The committee has had access  
to my radio scripts for two years.  
The subpoena doesn't mean any-  
thing."

At Wood's office in New York, it  
was said there would be no imme-  
diate comment from that source.