

Sedition Trial Likely To Await Fall Term

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Arraignments is scheduled for next Thursday for most of the 28 persons named in the sealed indictment opened at District Court charging them with undermining the morale of the armed forces. Justice Department officials said late today.

John T. Reddan, special assistant to the Attorney General, said a bond of \$5,000 would be asked in each case. He said also that an early trial date will be asked of the District Court judge hearing the case, but that in all likelihood the case will not be tried until the fall term begins, October 6.

Bench warrants were being prepared for the arrest of two local men named as defendants in the indictment—James C. True and Oscar Brumback.

Mr. Reddan also revealed that Dillard Stokes, a reporter for the Washington Post, is the "Jefferson Breem" and the "Quigley Adams" named in the indictment as the persons at whom the alleged overt acts of the conspirators were aimed. On 17 different occasions, material that had the purpose of undermining morale of the armed forces was sent to Mr. Stokes under the two fictitious names, the indictment alleges. The address of "Breem" was 3917 Pennsylvania avenue S.E., where Mr. Stokes lives, and that of "Adams" was Box 919, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington.

Sealed Indictment Opened Accusing 28 Of Seditious Activity

Two Counts Charged Against Each; Papers, Organizations Cited

The sealed indictment charging 28 persons with sedition in conspiring to undermine the morale of the armed forces was opened in District Court today.

The indictment had been returned to Justice James W. Morris on Tuesday by a special grand jury which for months had traced the activities of Axis propagandists in the United States.

Federal authorities moved swiftly, meanwhile, to complete a coast-to-coast roundup of all the persons specifically charged as a result of the jury's investigation.

Named in the indictment were a number of persons prominent in pre-Pearl Harbor isolationist activities. The indictment charged that the accused had carried on their seditious activities following United States entry into the war.

The indictment said that these persons used a number of publications and organizations—including the Ku Klux Klan, the Black Legion, the Silver Shirts, German-American Bund and America First Committee—to spread their propaganda.

Two Charges Against Each.

There were two specific counts in the indictment, charged against all 28 of the defendants. The first of these charged seditious activities before our entry into the war and the second charged violation of the Espionage Act after December 8.

Among those indicted were Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling of Chicago, author of "The Red Network"; George Sylvester Viereck, tried and convicted here for violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act; William Dudley Pelley, Noblesville, Ind., leader of the Silver Shirts and at present under indictment for sedition; Gerald B. Winrod, Wichita, Kans., publisher of "The Defender"; Prescott Dennett of Washington and William Griffin, publisher of the New York Enquirer.

Among those indicted were the following whose address was listed as Washington: James C. True, organizer of James True Associates, and Oscar Brumback, organizer of No Foreign War Coalition, Inc.

The others indicted were Court Asher, publisher of "X-Ray," Muncie, Ind.; David J. Baxter, organizer of the Social Republic Society (SOCIS), San Bernardino, Calif.; Otto Brennermann of Chicago, cartoonist whose work appeared in publications controlled by others under indictment; H. Victor Broenstrup, attorney for Pelley, also known by an assortment of aliases as the Duke of St. Saba and Count Victor Cherep-Spiridovich; C. Leon De Aryan, San Diego, publisher of "The Broom"; Hudson de Priest, writer for Winrod.

Others Indicted.

Also Hans Diebel, Los Angeles, proprietor of the Aryan Book Store; Elmer J. Garner, Wichita, editor of "Publicity," and his son, James F. Garner, both of whom are already under indictment for sedition; Robert Edward Edmondston, New York and Santa Barbara, Calif., writer for Winrod; Charles B. Hudson, Omaha, publisher of "America in Danger";

Ellis O. Jones, Los Angeles, organizer of "Friends of Progress" and already convicted of sedition; William Kullgren of Atascadero, Calif., publisher of "The Beacon Light"; William Robert Lyman, Jr., Detroit, an officer of the National Workers' League; Donald McDaniel, Chicago, a dentist, who financed and distributed Brennermann's cartoons.

Also Robert Noble, Los Angeles, another organizer of "The Friends of Progress" who has been convicted of sedition; Eugene Nelson Sanctuary, New York, writer for Winrod; Edward James Smythe, New York, writer for Publicity; Herman Max Schwinn, Los Angeles, German-American Bund leader and member of the Silver Shirts; Ralph Townsend, contributor to Scribner's Commentator, who is under jail sentence for failure to register under the Foreign Agents' Registration Act.

The indictment also said that the accused "did use and make use of" the Congressional Record to "publish, convey to and urge upon members of the military and naval forces of the United States of America, for the purpose of obstructing and designed and intended to impede, obstruct and defeat the preparation of our national defense against aggression and invasion and the national war effort. * * *

The special grand jury, in following the Nation-wide activities of those indicted, heard 150 witnesses and recorded 6,880 pages of testimony.

Other Organizations Listed.

The other organizations which the grand jury alleged were used to undermine morale were the National Workers' League of America (Detroit), National Committee to Keep America Out of Foreign Wars, Citizens' Committee to Keep America Out of War, Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee, Islands for War Debts Committee, War Debts Defense Committee, Coalition of Patriotic Societies, Crusading Mothers of America, Citizens No Foreign War Coalition, American Guards, Social Republic Society, Committee of Patriot Organizations, Protestant Gentile League, Pioneer News Service, Crusaders White Shirts, James True Associations, Women Investors in America, Constitutional Educational League, We, the Mothers United, Flanders Hall, Inc.; United Mothers of America, We, the Mothers, Mobilize for America, Inc., and American Mothers.

The National Committee to Keep America Out of Foreign Wars was headed by Representative Fish, Republican, of New York. The Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee, another of the organizations named by the jury, listed the late Senator Lundeen as one of its organizers.

Publications Named.

The publications which the indictment charged were used in the conspiracy included:

The New York Enquirer, The Defender, The Octopus, The Galilean, X-Ray, Publicity, Beacon Light, The Roll Call, Weckruf Bund Beobachter (also known as The Free American), Industrial Control Reports, World Service (published at Erfurt, Germany, and also known as Welt Dienst), Social Republic Society Bulletin, America in Danger!, The Broom, Patriotic Research Bureau Newsletter, Road to Victory, Women Investors in America Bulletin, Constitutional Education League Bulletin, Scribner's Commentator, War Guilt and Warmongers, Revolution and the Fifth Column, Edmondson's Economic Research Service, American Vigilante, Citizens' No Foreign War Coalition Manual, America Awakes, Lord Lothian vs. Lord Lothian, War, War, War; The Cross and The Flag, Cease Firing, Purdy Publishing Co.

The jury said that the propaganda distributed by the defendants had attempted to destroy faith in our Allies, to indicate that the United States was safe from attack, and to undermine confidence in American public officials. In this connection the jury quoted from publications controlled by the defendants.

Called Dishonest War.

Among the quotations were allegations that the present conflict "is a dishonest war waged at the expense and measured in blood and dollars of the people of the United States solely for the benefit of, and to insure the continuance of, world domination by 'international Jewry-organized finance' and 'British-American capitalists,' 'British imperialists,' etc.

Other statements cited by the grand jury included attacks on aid to Russia and statements that "Germany and Italy have committed no aggressive act against any nation. . . ."

The propagandists, according to the jury, also declared that "the Japanese war against China is morally right and just and constitutes an effort by the Japanese to establish right and justice."

Another quotation given was that "no real danger exists anywhere in the world to the United States, its possessions, or its republican form of government."

The jury also quoted the statement "the Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor was instigated by Great Britain."

The jury said that the defendants carried on a "systematic campaign of personal villification and defamation of the public officials of the United States Government" in order to convince members of the armed forces that "such public officials are traitorous, corrupt, dishonest, incompetent, un-American and mentally unbalanced."

The jury stated that the defendants had propagandized members of the armed forces to the effect that the United States is governed "by a secret foreign group of persons and organizations opposed to American principles and ideals." It was also stated that the defendants had said "the war with Japan was provoked deliberately by officials of the United States Government as a means of enabling them to seize permanent control of the Government—under the guise of military necessity."

It was also alleged that the defendant had called public officials "insane murderers bent on ruling the whole world," "anti-Christian, Marxian dictators," and "Judas-like betrayers of their country."

"It being the plan and purpose of said defendants," the indictment charged, "to destroy the morale and faith and confidence of the members of the military and naval forces of the United States * * * in their public officials * * *"

Quotations From Record.

The 28-page typewritten indictment quoted from material that is alleged to have been published in the Congressional Record.

The following quotations were said to have appeared in the Record:

"Ever since the President had his conference with Churchill on the high seas, we have been hearing from editorial writers, radio commentators and New Deal spokesmen of the United Nations. Now comes a member of the President's cabinet, Ickes; a member of the United States Supreme Court, Roberts; both of whom have sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution, and add their endorsement to the Judas-like betrayal of our people into and as one of a United States of the World.

"Is not Franklin Delano Roosevelt satisfied with being a third-term President of the United States, an honor which patriotism forbade him to accept? Is he not satisfied with his opportunity of conquering the whole world, far greater in Alexander's day? Are his spokesmen behind this move to surrender our independence, our national existence; become a part of the United States of the World, and make Franklin Delano Roosevelt the president of that world nation?"

In all, the indictment set forth 50 quotations from articles and statements published and printed or caused to be printed by the defendants before and after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The first count of the indictment charges violation of section 11, title 18, United States Code, while the second count charges conspiracy to violate section 34, title 50, United States Code, which is the 1917 Espionage Act.

Maximum penalties under the first count are 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Under the second count, the penalty is 20 years' imprisonment and \$10,000 fine.

The case was handled for the Justice Department by William Power Maloney and John T. M. Reddan, special assistants to the Attorney General. They acted under direction of Assistant Attorney General Wentwell Berge.