

PRESS RELEASE

FROM: JEWISH PEOPLES COMMITTEE
1133 Broadway, Rm. 1427, New York City
Chelsea 3-5787

AUGUST 28, 1941

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A demand for an immediate re-examination of the use of the Congressional frank was called for today by Bernard J. Harkavy, National Secretary of the Jewish Peoples Committee, in a letter addressed to Postmaster General Frank Walker. This demand followed an investigation by the Jewish Peoples Committee of the sending of anti-Semitic literature through the United States mails under the franking privilege of Congressman Hamilton Fish, of New York.

At the same time Mr. Harkavy revealed that, in a discussion today with Congressman Fish, who was reached at his office at 111 Broadway, the Congressman charged that the franked envelope had ^{probably} been stolen from his office.

The envelope which bore the Congressional frank of Congressman Fish had been addressed to "The Fight for Jewdom Committee" at 1270 Sixth Avenue, which is the office of the Fight for Freedom Committee. Inserted in the letter was a viciously anti-Semitic publisher's pamphlet, issued by the Pelley Publishers.

Mr. Harkavy also asserted that Congressman Fish told him that he had telephoned William Dudley Pelley, at Asheville, North Carolina, and that Pelley had denied knowing anything about the insertion of his material in the letter.

For some time Pelley has been a fugitive from North Carolina and is supposedly residing in Indianapolis, Indiana, where his printing press is now located.

In his letter to Postmaster General Walker, Mr. Harkavy stated in part as follows:

"The sending of the viciously anti-Semitic publisher's pamphlet of William Dudley Pelley under the franking privilege of a Congressman of the United States is only the latest of a number of such mailings where the Congressional frank is used to send pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic, and un-American materials free of charge through the mails.

"In the last session of Congress, former Congressman Jacob Thorkelson made a regular practice of inserting anti-Semitic and pro-Hitler material in the Congressional Record and of sending it out under his franking privilege to citizens in every section of the country. Today Mr. Thorkelson is a regular writer for Pelley's anti-Semitic and Nazi magazine 'Roll Call', and in the June 30 issue of that publication he wrote an article entitled 'So They Got Us Into The World War', in which all the stale lies of the notorious 'Protocols of Zion' are rehashed.

"In the present session of Congress some of the members of the Congress who are tied up with the American First Committee seem determined to carry on where Thorkelson left off. They fill their speeches with anti-Semitic propaganda and then send them out under their franking privilege. American democracy and our national security demand that this misuse of the franking privilege be ended immediately.

"I call upon you, therefore, as the Postmaster General of the United States, to institute an immediate and thorough investigation of the misuse of the franking privilege and to see to it that no more un-American and pro-Nazi propaganda is sent out under the Congressional frank."

AUGUST 28, 1941

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A demand for an immediate re-examination of the use of the Congressional frank was called for today by Bernard J. Harbovy, National Secretary of the Jewish Peoples Committee, in a letter addressed to Postmaster General Frank Walker. This demand followed an investigation by the Jewish Peoples Committee of the sending of anti-Semitic literature through the United States mails under the franking privilege of Congressman Hamilton Fish, of New York.

At the same time Mr. Harbovy revealed that, in a discussion today with Congressman Fish, who was reached at his office at 111 Broadway, the Congressman charged that the franked envelope had been stolen from his office. The envelope which bore the Congressional frank of Congressman Fish had been addressed to "The Fight for Jewish Committee" at 1270 Sixth Avenue, which is the office of the Fight for Freedom Committee. Inserted in the letter was a violently anti-Semitic pamphlet, issued by the Policy Publishers. Mr. Harbovy also asserted that Congressman Fish told him that he had telephoned William Dudley Pelley, at Asheville, North Carolina, and that Pelley had denied knowing anything about the insertion of his material in the letter.

For some time Pelley has been a fugitive from North Carolina and is supposedly residing in Indianapolis, Indiana, where his printing press is now located. In his letter to Postmaster General Walker, Mr. Harbovy stated in part as follows:

"The sending of the violently anti-Semitic publisher's pamphlet of William Dudley Pelley under the franking privilege of a Congressman of the United States is only the latest of a number of such mailings where the Congressional frank is used to send pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic, and un-American material free of charge through the mails.

"In the last session of Congress, former Congressman Jacob Thorselson made a regular practice of inserting anti-Semitic and pro-fascist material in the Congressional Record and of sending it out under his franking privilege to citizens in every section of the country. Today Mr. Thorselson is a regular writer for Pelley's anti-Semitic and Nazi magazine 'Bell Gull', and in the June 30 issue of that publication he wrote an article entitled 'So They Got Us Into the World War', in which all the state lies of the notorious 'Protocols of Zion' are rehashed.

"In the present session of Congress some of the members of Congress who are tied up with the American First Committee seem determined to carry on where Thorselson left off. They fill their speeches with anti-Semitic attacks and then send them out under their franking privilege. American democracy and our national security demand that this misuse of the franking privilege be ended immediately.

"I call upon you, therefore, as the Postmaster General of the United States, to institute an immediate and thorough investigation of this misuse of the franking privilege and to see to it that no more un-American and Nazi propaganda is sent out under the Congressional frank."

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Jewish Peoples Committee. Press Release... August 28, 1941. For immediate release. [On the use of Congressman Hamilton Fish's franking privilege to mail anti-Semitic literature]. New York: Jewish Peoples Committee, 1941. 8.5x14 inch mimeographed sheet, horizontal fold, mild handling wear. (#211428)

One of Congressman Fish's official envelopes had been used to mail an anti-Semitic pamphlet from William Dudley Pelley to the Fight for Freedom Committee, addressed as the "Fight for Jewdom Committee." States that Fish had claimed the envelope must have been stolen. Includes the text of a letter to the Postmaster General by Bernard J. Harkavy, national secretary of the JPC.