

REX STOUT CALLS OUR UNITY 'PHOOEY'

Asserts Outbursts Against OCD
Appointments Show Enemy
Is at Work in U. S.

HE CALLS FOR A REMEDY

Mrs. Roosevelt Opens Carnival
for Democracy—Birkhead
Tells of Its Purpose

Visitors to the Carnival for Democracy, whose scheduled three-night run at the Grand Central Palace was opened by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt at 6 P. M. yesterday, heard Rex Stout, the author, assert later in the evening that any idea of national unity was "phooey" so long as the appointment of Mayris Chaney to the Office of Civilian Defense caused an "outburst more bitter and more violent than the outburst against the Japanese for their treacherous attack at Honolulu."

Mrs. Roosevelt, whose selection of the blonde dancer for the OCD had loosed a torrent of criticism from some quarters, did not hear Mr. Stout's attack upon her critics. She had left immediately after inspecting the booths and displays of some of the forty pro-democracy and anti-Axis organizations sponsoring the carnival.

First Lady Lauds Carnival

As she was leaving the building, Mrs. Roosevelt said: "I think it is wonderful that all these organizations can get together under one roof to show how democracy is being defended at home."

Mr. Stout and Dr. L. M. Birkhead, chairman of the sponsoring committee, made brief speeches preliminary to the presentation of a program of folk dancing by costumed national groups, music, demonstrations and other entertainment, for which Sigmund Spaeth was master of ceremonies.

Declaring that "the enemy is having things pretty much his own way" today in the Atlantic, in Europe and in the Far East, Mr. Stout said:

"But it is also true here at home, on our own soil. Look at the week just past. The avalanche of denunciations and catcalls that greeted two OCD appointments was by no means a minor and insignificant episode. It was a symptom of a deep and dangerous disease which the smoke of Pearl Harbor momentarily obscured but did not cure, and did not even affect."

Mr. Stout said that while the appointments of Miss Chaney and Melwyn Douglas "may or may not have been ill-advised" the reaction in some quarters showed that "most of the appeasers and isolationists and home-grown Fascists, and certainly the worst of them, are today exactly what they were before Pearl Harbor."

"They were the enemies then—conscious or unconscious, what's the difference?—of the hopes and purposes of people who loved freedom, and they still are," he said.

Asks What is Being Done

Mr. Stout then addressed himself directly to the groups sponsoring the Carnival for Democracy and asked what they were doing

about the situation he had just outlined.

"Pathetically little," he said, answering his own question. "They are holding meetings of executive committees and boards. They are preparing to plan to arrange to do something."

Dr. Birkhead said the carnival itself was an answer to the question: Why don't the various pro-democracy and crisis organizations get together? He said: "We are together in a united front against the forces which seek to destroy democracy throughout the world. Forty organizations are joined together here. Each has its separate program. But they are together in their final purpose—to defend our way of life at all costs."

Six-year-old Eva Hegedus of 409 East Seventy-eighth Street, bright in Hungarian folk costume, handed Mrs. Roosevelt a bouquet of daffodils and tulips and then posed with her for pictures in front of a defense savings booth.

Groups from most of the United Nations and the "free" movements of Europe share space at the carnival with local civilian defense and welfare organizations, displaying wares, demonstrations of service and literature. One of the most strikingly decorated booths is that of the German-American Congress for Democracy, in which German-speaking attendants plot the downfall of Hitler.