



CLERGYMEN VISITING FORT DES MOINES. *They are accompanied by (left) Maj. Margaret D. Craighill, Col. Frank U. McCoskrie, and the Director of the WAAC.*

pictures in religious magazines by a group of religious writers and editors who received a similar plane trip.¹⁰³

There was also some evidence that the newspaper blasts concerning Axis sympathizers, even though mistaken in where they placed their blame, had some effect

in convincing rumormongers that they might be aiding the enemy.

Congressional committees were so alarmed by the rumors that, two days after the 8 June "Capitol Stuff" column appeared, they summoned Director Hobby to appear and bring statistics on the actual cases of pregnancy and venereal disease. After seeing these, they expressed a desire to be of assistance, and suggested that the Director publish the figures and some of the actual cases of rumor spreading, to prove to the public that WAAC morality was superior to that of civilian women.¹⁰⁴ One Congressional committee stated:

(2) Releases in numerous papers; for example, *Washington Post*, June 11, 1943. The group included Dr. Barnett R. Bricker, National Jewish Welfare Board; Bishop W. W. Peels, Council of Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Ready, National Catholic Welfare Conference; Dr. Almon R. Pepper, National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church; Dr. S. Arthur Devan, General Commission of Army-Navy Chaplains; Dr. Joseph C. Hazen, Northern Baptist Conference; Dr. J. Quinter Miller, Federal Council of Churches of Christ; Dr. William Barrow Pugh, Presbyterian Church; Dr. Carroll C. Roberts, International Convention of Disciples of Christ.

¹⁰³ M/R, 29 Apr 43, sub: Religion. SPWA 000.3.

¹⁰⁴ WAAC Daily Journal, Vol. I, 10 Jun 43.