

The Lindbergh Secret.

FOR our own part, we should have been glad to be present when the vitriolic Secretary Ickes made his initial and off-the-record reply to the demand of ex-Colonel Lindbergh for an apology. It was, we are sure, an explosion worth listening to.

On second glance, however, the Secretary doubtless perceived that the ex-Lone Eagle's demand was a bit tricky. It assumed that the Secretary's charge that Lindbergh's "passionate words" in his speeches are intended to "encourage Hitler and break down the will of his own fellow citizens to resist Hitler and Nazism" implied that Lindbergh had a direct connection with the German government. Of course, Mr. Ickes implied no such thing. He realizes that it would be silly for Hitler to attempt to hire somebody who was doing exactly what he wanted done without pay or promise of reward.

Before an apology from the Secretary is arranged for, he doubtless will insist that Mr. Lindbergh confine himself to the main point, which is whether Mr. Lindbergh's activities and statements do actually encourage Hitler to believe that the ability and determination of Americans to resist Hitler and Nazism will be found wanting when the time comes. Secretary Ickes in his discussion of the Lindbergh utterances charged only this, and Mr. Lindbergh is not vindicated by lack of a showing of a commission from or a contract with Hitler.

All of the Lindbergh speeches and statements have a curious tone. Each adds a little to the clues avidly sought by curious students who have been trying to guess the Lindbergh secret.

The latest—his letter to the President complaining of Secretary Ickes—contains a clew in the repeated use of "you" and "your." To ordinary Americans the department heads at Washington are members of the President's Cabinet, the embassies in foreign capitals are American embassies, the army officers attached to them are military attaches of the American embassies, the generals of the army are generals of the army. To Mr. Lindbergh they are "your" secretaries, "your" embassies, "your" military attaches, "your" generals.

Mr. Lindbergh, writing with seeming respect to the President of the United States, is implying, none too subtly, that the Government of the United States is not a proper government.

Taken in connection with his former amazing calls for a "change of leadership," the mystery of the letter grows clearer. Mr. Lindbergh is in the hands of certain groups which do not hesitate to approach the borders of treason in their enmity to the President. These do not require a "direct connection" with any foreign government, and it is not necessary for them to hold communication with foreign agents.

Mr. Lindbergh in his letter to the President spoke as a citizen of another country would speak. Does he consider himself so already? If so, he finds himself in agreement with the majority of Americans.