

Axis Sally Trial Could Have Been Cast by Hollywood Gang

By ANDREW TULLY, Scripps-Howard Staff Writer
WASHINGTON, Mar. 3—If you like your courtroom characters to be pure formula, take a look at the Axis Sally trial. Hollywood might jazz up their haberdashery some, but it couldn't do a better job of type-casting. Just like in the movies, Chief Prosecutor John M. Kelley Jr. and Defense Counsel James J. Laughlin are completely opposite types. Mr. Laughlin is a sort of poor man's Bill Fallon. He hasn't the impudence and aggressiveness of that famous trial lawyer of the '20's, but he can be just as nice in a courtroom.

The balding Mr. Laughlin is the best-natured man in the room. He defers not only to Judge Edward M. Curran and to Mr. Kelley, but even to the lowliest court em-

ployee. It is clear he is determined not to antagonize anyone. Usually he adopts an attitude of sweet reasonableness and rarely complains about a decision from the bench. He takes pains to see that the stenographer is getting everything down and frequently accommodates him by having his witnesses repeat names. He chuckles over little jokes. He beams at the jury.

By contrast, Prosecutor Kelley

is a grim, dour figure. He regards the trial as serious business. When he objects or raises a point, his deep-throated voice is not fiery but gruff—and a mite impatient.

Even when impatient, however, he never flies off the handle. He stood all he could of a rambling monologue by Sally on her sweet heart, the late Prof. Max Otto Koischwitz, a German radio of-

icial, but instead of leaping up with the usual cry of anguish, he merely observed dryly: "I don't mind hearing about the German landscape, but I don't want to listen to Prof. Koischwitz's life story."

As a matter of fact, you some-

times wonder why Mr. Laughlin never gets impatient with his client's long-windedness, but then you listen a little longer and you get the point. There is no harm, for instance, in Sally fixing a date as "the first Sunday in Advent"—shows she's up on religious terms, at least.

Likewise, why stop her when she's saying how glad she is that she belongs to such a nice race as the Irish? And nobody's going to get any madder at her when she explains she's been in jail almost three years.

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