WAR PSYCHOLOGY
BATTLE CARRIED
TO WHITE HOUSE

Two Propaganda Heads
Clash Over Control.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18 (AP) — A
dispute between Col. William J. Don-
ovan, head of the office of strategic
services, and Elmer Davis, chief of
the office of war information, as to
which should direct psychological
warfare abroad has gone to the
White House, reliable but unquotable
sources said today. Indications are
that OWI will continue its present
operations, including those in North
Africa.

Davis, asked at a press conference
last week whether there were dif-
ferences between OWI and OSS, said
he did not believe it would be “in
the public interest for me to say
anything about that at this time,” but
that if the occasion should arise he
“could say quite a lot about it.”

Tell of Donovan Directive.

Other sources, however, reported
that Donovan several weeks ago
issued a directive to OWI and other
agencies asserting that OSS should
be the central agency for planning
and directing propaganda and
psychological warfare in present
and future zones of American military
operations abroad.

The OSS operates under the com-
bined chiefs of staff. President Roose-
velt last June gave it the function of
“collecting secret and strategic in-
formation in foreign countries” and
performing “miscellaneous strategic
services abroad, other than the dis-
semination of information by radio,
leaflets, etc.”

The OWI replied to the Donovan
directive that in the light of its own
executive order from the President it
could not permit itself to become
merely an arm of OSS.

Designations Are Threatened.

OWI’s executive order instructs the
agency to promote “an informed and
intelligent understanding, at home and
abroad,” of this government’s war
policies, activities and aims.

Robert Sherwood, playwright and
OWI’s director of overseas operations,
indicated his intention of resigning if
subjected to Donovan’s supervision,
it was reported. Two of Sherwood’s
top assistants, Joseph Barnes, as-
sociate director, and James Warburg,
a deputy, gave notice that they also
would leave if OSS control became
a fact. Sherwood and his aids are
still on the job.