

Viereck Seized in New York After Jury Indicts Him Here

Accused of Failing To Give Full Facts As German Agent

George Sylvester Viereck, widely known German-born publicist, was indicted today by a District grand jury on charges of withholding essential information concerning propaganda activities from registration statements he filed with the State Department as an agent of the German Library of Information.

The indictment was made public shortly after Mr. Viereck was arrested in New York City. It is in five counts, each of which makes him liable to two years' imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000.

A spokesman of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New York said Mr. Viereck probably would be arraigned this afternoon in the Federal District Court there.

One count of the indictment alleges that he advised and informed "one Prescott Dennett and divers other persons" on political matters by assisting Mr. Dennett and these others to organize the "Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee," and by contributing "large sums of money" to defray the expenses of the committee. This organization, the count sets forth, was designed to disseminate information to newspapers and other media "to influence, persuade, bend and mould American



GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK.

—Star Staff Photo.

public opinion in matters relating to public interest."

Another count alleges that he aided Mr. Dennett and others in the operation of the "Make Europe Pay" group and the "Islands for War Debts Committee" in order "to disseminate by mail under congressional franking privilege speeches and public addresses de-

(See VIERECK, Page A-6.)

Viereck

(Continued From First Page.)

livered on the floors of Congress and elsewhere by present and former members of both houses of Congress and in order to place matter for publication in newspapers, radio broadcasts, periodical and other media" in order to influence public opinion in this country.

Mr. Dennett, who was executive secretary of the two groups, recently was haled before the District grand jury and a large quantity of literature in the headquarters of the two committees was confiscated by Justice Department agents.

In this material was a mass of speeches by isolationist members of Congress ready to be mailed out under their congressional franks.

Accused of Using Names.

One count of the indictment alleges that Mr. Viereck "wrote and edited articles dealing with political subjects and had them printed and distributed to magazines and newspapers under fictitious names, such as James Burr Hamilton, George F. Corners, Donald Furtherman Wicketts, William L. Stidger and Dr. Claudius Murchison for the purpose of concealing the true identity of the writer from the public."

Dr. Stidger is a widely-known member of the clergy who has edited articles on economic subjects. Dr. Murchison is head of the Cotton Textile Institute here.

Another count avers that Mr. Viereck financed and directed Flanders Hall, Inc., a Scotch Plains, N. J., publishing house, for the purpose of publishing and distributing political material through newspapers, periodicals and pamphlets. This count also sets out that under the imprint of Flanders Hall various publications were turned out that were translations and adaptations of material issued by Deutsche Informationsstelle of Berlin as well as books and other materials printed and written in the United States, including "Lorth Lothian vs. Lord Lothian," "The Hapless Boers," "Democracy on the Nile," "Misadventures in Scandinavia," "War Against the Women and Children," "The Whipping Block," "Turkey Reborn," "Inhumanity Unlimited," "What About Africa?" and "Double-Cross in Palestine."

Activities Omitted.

This material, the indictment said, was all designed to influence American public opinion.

The indictment alleges that these details of his activities were omitted from his original registration statement filed with the State Department under the Foreign Agents Registration Act and from subsequent supplementary registration statements.

Mr. Viereck, now 57, is a naturalized American, it was said at the Justice Department today.

The grand jury which returned the indictment has been studying Nazi propaganda for several weeks. Unusual precautions were taken in the proceedings, the indictment being handed into the court late yesterday under seal and only opened after the Justice Department had been advised this morning of the defendant's arrest.

Forced to Quit Club.

Mr. Viereck's first registration, made in October, 1939, described him as an "author and journalist," and gave his principal the Muenchener Neueste Nachrichten, long-established South German daily which was transferred into a Nazi mouthpiece. The registration statement gave his salary as \$500 per month.

In December of last year Mr. Viereck resigned from the Overseas Press Club, an organization of men who have served as foreign correspondents. At that time Burnet Hershey, executive secretary of the club, said the resignation was by request because "all kinds of Gestapos and bundists used to attend our meetings with him."

Mr. Viereck promptly denied the charge, declaring:

"There is no member of the Gestapo or the Bund in my circle of acquaintances. I certainly brought no such person knowingly to any meeting of the club."

According to testimony in a Chicago lawsuit in 1922, Mr. Viereck

predicted the sinking of the Lusitania four days before that ship went down in the North Atlantic after being torpedoed.

He is listed in Who's Who in America as having been born in Munich, Germany, and having emigrated to the United States at the age of 11.