

Viereck Held, Accused of Using Frank

**Nazi Agent Seized
In N.Y.; Charged With
Employing Privileges
— Held by Congressmen**

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By Dillard Stokes
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An ace German propagandist, George Sylvester Viereck, was arrested yesterday on an indictment charging that he set up two anti-interventionist committees and used them to send his material through the mail under Congressional frank.

The dapper little Nazi agent was released in New York on bond of \$15,000 to secure his appearance here for trial, which Attorney General Biddle said he wanted held "as soon as possible." Viereck is due to be arraigned in the District Court tomorrow.

Urging Federal authorities to make the bail \$25,000, Special Prosecutor William Power Maloney called Viereck "one of the most serious menaces in this country." Viereck retorted with a bitter statement which charged he was being persecuted for working for peace.

The special grand jury investigating German agents here returned a secret indictment against Viereck Tuesday. Unsealed after his arrest, the true bill charged him with five instances of withholding vital information from the State Department when he registered as a foreign agent.

Evasiveness Charged

The grand jurors attached to the indictment photostatic copies of five registration statements which Viereck submitted between September 15, 1939, and the present time. These disclosed that he was the American agent of the newspaper, *Neueste Nachrichten*, published in his native Munich, of its editor, its publishers and of the official German Library of Information.

But, said the grand jurors, each of these registrations left out important facts about what Viereck was doing to influence American public policy. Each of the five registrations was presented as a separate count of the indictment, each count punishable by \$1000 fine or two years in prison, or both.

The grand jurors charged Viereck with "aiding, abetting and assisting Prescott Dennett and divers other persons in organizing and setting up a certain committee known as 'Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee.'" This group, once headed by the late Senator Ernest Lundeen (Farmer-Labor), of Minnesota, later was succeeded by the Islands for War Debts Committee. Dennett, secretary-treasurer, ran both at 1430 Rhode Island Avenue Northwest.

Linked to Dennett

The grand jurors charged that Viereck carried on his propaganda "by contributing large sums of money for the maintenance and to defray the expenses of the said committees, it being the plan and purpose among others, of the defendant Viereck to use 'Make Europe Pay Committee' and 'Islands for War Debts Committee', the said Prescott Dennett and divers other persons to disseminate and distribute by mail under Congressional franking privilege and otherwise certain speeches and public addresses delivered on the floor of Congress and elsewhere by present and former members of both houses of the Congress of the United States . . ."

Dennett was questioned for seven days by the grand jury that indicted Viereck. Still pending is a contempt of court proceeding against Dennett, started when he failed to give the grand jurors his records of the membership and financing of his committees. After the court ordered Dennett to turn over all his records, Federal agents found that he had several large boxes full

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Congressional Frank's Use Laid to Viereck

VIERECK, from Page 1.

of unaddressed franked envelopes of members of the House and Senate. Later investigation uncovered the fact that a few hours after he was summoned, Dennett got rid of 20 mailbags full of similar franked envelopes, using a House truck sent by the office of Representative Hamilton Fish (Republican), of New York.

The grand jurors also accused Viereck of putting out propaganda through Flanders Hall, Inc., Scotch Plains, N. J., which, the indictment said, Viereck "financed, controlled and directed." Through this firm, said the indictment, Viereck published books which were translations or adaptations of books produced by Deutsche Informationstelle Berlin.

Publications Listed

These productions, said the indictment, included "Lord Lothian vs. Lord Lotham," "The Hapless Boers," "Democracy on the Nile," "Misadventure in Scandinavia," "War Against Women and Children," "The Whipping Block," "Turkey Reborn," "Inhumanity Unlimited," "What About Africa" and "Doublecross in Palestine"

The Flanders Hall firm is the one which published a book called "We Must Save the Republic," over the signature of Representative Stephen A. Day (Republican), of Illinois, one of those whose franks were found in Dennett's office.

Mr. Day told The Post: "I wrote the book myself without aid or collaboration of anybody as an answer to 'Union Now.' I never got any royalties from Flanders Hall. As soon as I found out that those fellows were registered as foreign agents I bought my contract back at considerable cost and it is now being handled by an American house, Shaw Publishing Co., of Washington. I don't know Mr. Viereck at all. I have seen Mr. Dennett but I never sent any of my franks to any society except America First, the American Coalition and some women's groups."

Wrote Under Many Names

Beside establishing these instrumentalities, the grand jurors charged, Viereck handled propaganda himself, "and caused the same to be printed, published and distributed in magazines, periodicals and newspapers under false and fictitious names including, among others, James Burr Hamilton, George F. Corners, Donald Furthman Wicketts, William L. Stidger and Dr. Claudius Murchison, for the purpose, among others, of concealing from the public of the United States the true name and identity of the writer."

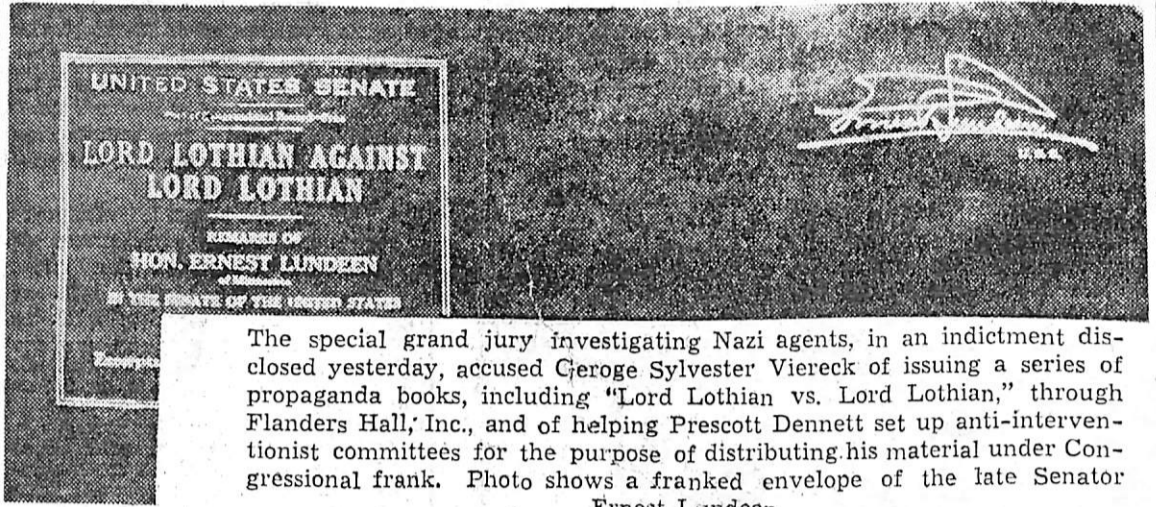
Reached by the Associated Press in Boston, Dr. Claudius Murchison, president of the Cotton Textile Institute, said he was "totally unable to explain" the use of his name.

"I didn't recall even seeing Viereck until I checked my files today and saw that he came to me about five years ago for information about Japanese textile imports into the United States," Murchison declared.

Federal agents with a bench warrant took Viereck in custody at his Riverside Drive apartment, adorned with pictures of Hitler and Dr. Goebbels, its bookshelves packed with the books and articles he has written to depict Kaiser Wilhelm as a wronged statesman and Hitler as a champion of peace.

Small, slender and graying, with

Under Congressional Frank . . .



The special grand jury investigating Nazi agents, in an indictment disclosed yesterday, accused George Sylvester Viereck of issuing a series of propaganda books, including "Lord Lothian vs. Lord Lothian," through Flanders Hall, Inc., and of helping Prescott Dennett set up anti-interventionist committees for the purpose of distributing his material under Congressional frank. Photo shows a franked envelope of the late Senator Ernest Lundeen

the quiet dress, heavy spectacles and diffident manner of a "typical" college professor, the 57-year-old Viereck has been the acknowledged leader of pro-German thought in this country all his adult life. Born in Munich in 1885, he came to America 10 years later with his father, from whose naturalization the son claims American citizenship.

Shortly after the World War began, he wrote "The Fatherland," a passionate defense of Germany. In the years that followed he opposed American entry in the war. During the twenties Viereck wrote and edited poetry and essays. His novel "My First Two Thousand Years," an imaginative story of the "Wandering Jew," achieved celebrity. In this period also he sought to vindicate the German position in the war.

As Hitler came to power, Viereck again took up the battle for Germany, hailing Hitler in 1936 as an apostle of peace and the Axis in 1939 as "the backbone of the world." Later he registered himself as a German agent, reporting a salary of about \$2500 a month.

Haled before United States Commissioner Isaac Platt yesterday, Viereck listened cheerfully while Attorney Daniel D. Cohalen, jr., and Emil Morosini, jr., pleaded for a low bond.

Viereck Issued Statement

"Because of Viereck's connections with the German government," reported Special Prosecutor Maloney, there is a great possibility he will never be here for trial." Commissioner Platt set the bail at \$20,000 and Viereck set himself to composing a long statement, in which he said:

"If I had worked for war as I have for peace I would not now stand indicted. My real crime, what ever the accusation against me may be, is twofold: I am an American of German blood and I oppose the desperate and despicable attempt to catapult our country into Europe's war . . ."

"My indictment is only an incident in the perfidious plot to smother and smear all opposition to the arbitrary forces cunningly at work to destroy the America we know and love."

Viereck's attorneys appealed to Federal Judge Samuel Mandelbaum, who permitted a \$15,000 bail after Viereck agreed not to resist removal to Washington.

Fish's Secretary To Testify Today

George Hill, a secretary of Representative Hamilton Fish, will have a chance today to tell what he knows about the mailbags full of

franked speeches to the special grand jury investigating German agents.

Hill was summoned earlier this week.

Hill gave the order for an official truck of the House of Representatives which called at the headquarters of Prescott Dennett, 1430 Rhode Island Avenue Northwest, early on September 19, a few hours after Dennett was summoned in the Nazi agent inquiry.

Dennett is secretary-treasurer of the Make Europe Pay and Island for War Debts Committees, which the grand jury charged Tuesday were financed by George Sylvester Viereck, indicted German agent, so Viereck could use them to get material in the mails under Congressional frank.

Twenty Mail Bags

Into the House truck, Dennett loaded 20 mailbags crammed with unaddressed Congressional franked envelopes containing anti-interventionist speeches. The truck delivered 12 of the bags to the America First Committee and eight more to the House Office Building, where Hill ordered them placed in a storeroom on the sixth floor, which contained a bin used by Representative Fish.

When the transaction was revealed by The Post a week afterward, Mr. Fish said he knew nothing about the mailbags, later saying that the truck was sent to get 500 copies of one of his speeches which Dennett had. Representative Fish said his secretary refused to accept the mailbags when they arrived.

On Saturday, September 27, Representative Fish's office announced some mailbags had been "found" in the storeroom on the sixth floor. These were discovered to contain unaddressed franked envelopes.

The grand jury before which Hill will be questioned began its Nazi agent inquiry on September 16, hearing Special Assistant Attorneys General George A. McNulty, Edward J. Hickey and William Power Maloney, of the propaganda squad of the Department of Justice.

The first witness, Frank B. Burch, Akron, Ohio, lawyer and non-interventionist, was indicted a week later as an unregistered agent of the German government. Then two weeks later the grand jury indicted Viereck.

The inquiry is expected to last several weeks more, the jury having been continued in authority until January.