

Viereck, Agent Of Nazis, Held In \$15,000 Bail

Propagandist Called
'Menace' to Nation;

New 'Fireworks' Seen

By CHALMERS M. ROBERTS

Further sensational disclosures were expected as the District Grand Jury today resumes its probe of Nazi propaganda activities in the United States which led yesterday to the indictment of George Sylvester Viereck, now held in New York under \$15,000 bond.

Originally bond had been set at \$20,000.

Viereck, registered with the State Department as a German agent, waived extradition but his attorneys put up a fight before U. S. Commissioner Isaac Platt for the lower bail. His attorney said Viereck would appear here tomorrow to plead to the indictment.

New "Fireworks" Seen

The District Grand Jury, which returned the Viereck indictment in a sealed report Tuesday is due to resume its sessions this afternoon when the U. S. attorneys handling the case will call more witnesses.

One source said some "fireworks" may be expected as the Justice Department pushes its probe. Attorneys in charge assert no end to the probe is yet in sight. At least one witness is expected to be recalled for further questioning. He is Prescott Dennett, secretary of the "Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee," mentioned in the Viereck indictment.

George Hill, a member of the staff of Representative Hamilton Fish (R.), of New York, is expected to testify today, but may not be reached until later. He was called earlier this week.

In a statement issued after his arrest, Viereck said that "under normal conditions I would welcome a trial of a jury of my peers; not now." Attorney General Francis Biddle in Washington yesterday promised that Viereck would be brought to trial "soon."

Charges "Smear Plot"

Viereck called the indictment on five charges of failing to report to the State Department all his activities on behalf of Nazi Germany "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."

The statement, distributed by Viereck's attorneys, asserted that no Grand Jury has investigated the "warmongering."

"My real crime, whatever the accusation against me may be, is twofold," Viereck said. I am an American citizen of German blood and I oppose the desperate and despicable attempt to catapult this country into Europe's war. I have tried hard to help the President keep his pledge to which he owes his re-election."

Assails "Union Now"

He asserted he loves America and has fought those who have substituted "Benedict Arnold for George Washington and who urge

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Viereck Held in \$15,000 As Nazi Propaganda Agent

Called 'Menace to National Security';
New 'Fireworks' Promised in Federal Quiz

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Union Now with Great Britain," adding:

"If I had paid homage to the British King or to the red master of the Kremlin no one would be interested in my finances or my affairs."

Viereck said "it is obvious that certain persons in power propose to deal with Americans of German descent, who would not spit on the graves of their fathers, with the same cruel discrimination and brutal intolerance with which Germany deals with her Jews."

"Threat to Security"

"The Department of Justice regards this man as one of the world's outstanding propagandists and as one of the most serious menaces to our national security," William Power Maloney, special assistant to the Attorney General, said at the arraignment.

Viereck was arrested in New York by Federal agents half an hour before the Justice Department here announced the indictment, which had been returned Tuesday afternoon but was ordered sealed pending the arrest.

Detailed Charges

High lights of the charges against Viereck, a friend of imperial Germany in World War I days, as he is today of Hitler's Germany, are:

1. That he advised, consulted and informed "divers persons" on matters relating to political interests, public relations and public policy. (Attorney General Francis Biddle in a press conference yesterday morning said he did not know identity of the "divers persons.")

2. That he wrote and edited articles on political subjects and had them printed and distributed to magazines and newspapers under fictitious names. One of the names he allegedly used was that of Dr. Claudius Murchison, former director of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in the Commerce Department and now head of the Cotton Textile Institute in New York.

Advisor to Dennett

Other "fictitious" names used by Viereck, the indictment charges, were James Burr Hamilton, George F. Corners, Donald Furtherman Wicketts and William L. Stidger, the latter being the name of a well known clergyman

who has written on economic subjects.

3. That he advised and informed Prescott Dennett "and divers other persons" on political matters by helping them organize the "Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee" of which Dennett, whose combination home and office is in the 1400 block of Rhode Island Avenue NW., is the secretary.

4. That Viereck allegedly contributed "large sums of money" to defray the committee's expenses for the purposes of using Dennett, the committee, and other persons to disseminate information to newspapers and other publications

in an effort to "influence, persuade, bend and mold American public opinion in matters relating to political interests."

Helped Finance Groups

5. That Viereck advised and consulted with Dennett and others interested in the "Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee" and another committee headed by Dennett, the "Islands for War Debts Committee"; that he helped finance both groups in order to disseminate by mail under Congressional franking privilege speeches and public addresses delivered on the floor of Congress and to place matter for publication in newspapers, radio broadcasts, periodicals and "other media" in an effort to influence public opinion in this country.

6. That Viereck used the publishing house known as Flanders Hall, Inc., of Scotch Plains, N. J., which he financed and directed, to distribute translations and adaptations of books and pamphlets is-

sued and distributed by Deutsche Informationsstelle, of Berlin, Germany, as well as books and other material written and printed in the United States, including "Lord Lothian vs. Lord Lothian," "The Hapless Boers," "Democracy on the Nile," "Misadventure in Scandinavia," "War Against Women and Children," "The Whipping Block," "Turkey Reborn," "Inhumanity Uprooted," "What About Africa?" and "Doublecross in Palestine," all anti-British publications.

Dennett and the committees to Attorney General Biddle, in commenting on the case, declared the indictment is "very interest-

ing" because it illustrates "the extent of our policy of forcing the disclosure" of foreign propaganda activities in the United States "rather than the suppression of that propaganda."

He said such prosecutions makes it possible for "the people to know" fully the activities of foreign agents in this nation who "withhold material facts" about their activities.

Reveals No Names

Biddle carefully sidestepped the issue of who are the "divers persons" referred to in the indictment with whom Viereck is charged with

advising and consulting on "matters relating to political interests, public relations and public policy."

He likewise said he did not know what Senators and Representatives were referred to in the indictment when it charged Viereck with disseminating information which has been printed in the Congressional Record, presumably inserted by members of Congress over their own names.

The actual counts of the indictment are for failure to include these various alleged activities in his registration statement filed with the State Department on September 26, 1939, and in sup-

plemental registration statements filed October 25, 1940, March 17, 1941, and April 23, 1941.

Viereck, if convicted, faces a maximum sentence of \$1,000 fine and two years imprisonment on each of the five counts.

The offenses cited in the indictment were committed in the period from July 1, 1935 to April 23, 1941.

The Justice Department, in announcing the indictment, said the secrecy surrounding the document's return Tuesday was necessary so that Viereck should not have prior knowledge of his indictment.