

Viereck, Nazi Agent, Enters Not Guilty Plea

Court Continues
Bond of \$15,000;
Plan Quick Trial

By CHALMERS M. ROBERTS

A "not guilty" plea was entered by George Sylvester Viereck in Justice James Morris' District Court here late yesterday to five counts of an indictment charging the registered Nazi propagandist with failing to reveal "material facts" about his activities.

When asked by the judge if he was familiar with the counts against him, Viereck smiled and said, "Yes, I've read all the newspaper accounts assiduously."

\$15,000 Bond Continued

Viereck's bond was continued at the \$15,000 figure set by a U. S. Commissioner in New York after his attorneys raised no objection. Viereck was taken from the courtroom to Police Headquarters to be fingerprinted and photographed. He drew rogues gallery photo number 82,225.

Assistant Attorney General William P. Maloney told the court Attorney General Francis Biddle, in view of the "serious nature of the case," wants to press the trial "at the very earliest opportunity." Viereck's attorneys, Daniel F. Cohalan jr. and Emil Morisini, said they would "create no unnecessary delay."

Maloney said the Government and defense attorneys had agreed on a period of two weeks to allow Viereck's counsel to make any motions or changes of plea they wished and this met with Justice Morris' approval.

At the Police Department, Viereck said he is 56 years old, an author, born in Munich, Germany, on December 31, 1884, five feet six inches tall and weighs 160 pounds.

Meanwhile, the District Grand Jury hearing the Justice Department's investigation of Nazi propaganda activities in this country—which already has resulted in two indictments, including Viereck's—concluded its work for a week after examining the contents of eight mailbags.

Ordered Mail Removed

The mailbags were originally in a truckload taken from the office of Prescott Dennett, secretary of the Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee, last September 19. The indictment against Viereck charges he gave money to support the committee's work.

Ten of the bags were taken to the office of the America First Committee, from which they were later taken to the Justice Department by a U. S. marshal. Eight others were taken to the office of Representative Hamilton Fish (R.), of New York. Fish's secretary, George Hill, says he had expected only one sack and that when he saw eight he ordered the House mail truck driver who had brought them to take them away.

The bags were then taken to the storeroom on the sixth floor of the New House Office Building and deposited in a corridor outside a locker assigned to Fish. There they lay until yesterday.

Hill appeared before the Grand Jury Thursday but did not bring the bags with him as ordered in the subpoena. He was taken into Justice T. Alan Goldsborough's court, where he was ordered either to produce the bags or come back with an adequate explanation by noon yesterday. The bags arrived at the Grand Jury room at 11:30 a.m. yesterday.



Times-Herald Photo

Nazi Propagandist Fingerprinted

George Sylvester Viereck, indicted here in connection with his activities as a Nazi propagandist, is shown signing his fingerprint record at Police Headquarters yesterday.

Charges Smear Campaign

Fish has repeatedly contended the mailbags, filled with franked unaddressed envelopes containing speeches of antiwar Congressmen, never were in his possession and he charged a "smear" campaign against him and other antiwar Congressmen. He refused to write a request that the House postmaster, Finis Scott, deliver the bags to the jury after Scott had said that only on a written order would he do so.

The knot was cut, however, when Scott decided not to be "too technical" about a letter from Fish and accepted as authority for ordering the mailbags sent to the Grand Jury a note written by Hill. Scott said the note pointed out Justice Goldsborough's order to Hill and requested that the bags, which had been "attempted" to be delivered to Fish's office, be sent the jury and that the truck driver who brought them pick them up, as he could identify them.

The driver, Charles Wilson, then brought the bags from the storeroom to the Police Court Building for the jurors to examine at their session yesterday. He testified for a short time on his part in the missing mailbags drama as did Hill and another of Fish's secretaries, Walter L. Reynolds.

Hints Fish Subpoena

Justice Goldsborough had suggested that Fish himself might be subpoenaed, but the Justice Department attorneys would not comment on that possibility and neither would Fish. Members of Congress are subject to subpoena but not to arrest.

After an hour and a half session with Wilson, Hill and Reynolds, the Grand Jury recessed until October 17, although it may be called at any time before that if the Justice Department wishes.