

Attempt to Halt Nazi Probe Charged

Post 11/2/41
**Fight for Freedom
Leader Asserts Gag
Pressure Is Applied**

"Influential persons in the Capital" have started an intensive "undercover drive" to stop the current grand-jury investigation into the activities of Nazi agents, it was charged yesterday. The charge was made by Ulric Bell, chairman of the Fight for Freedom executive committee, in a letter to all members of Congress.

"Mr. Congressman," Bell urged, "this investigation must go on. Every person, whether in high position or low, who serves Nazi Germany must be exposed. This is as much a matter of national defense as launching a destroyer or building an airplane."

U. S. Declared Horrified

Bell asserted that Americans are horrified as they read the disclosures of the grand jury that the franking privilege of Congressmen has been used by Nazi agents to spread propaganda.

The letter commended Special Prosecutors William Power Maloney and Edward J. Hickey and maintained that the facts they have uncovered help arm the American people against the fifth column within our borders.

The Fight-for-Freedom leader further charged that the franked envelopes of a dead Senator are being mailed out by an organization which calls itself the "National Copperheads" and which "disseminates poisonous propaganda." The reference, apparently, was to the late Senator Ernest Lundeen (Farmer-Laborite), of Minnesota, whose frank, it has been alleged, is still being used.

Franking Called Scandal

"The abuse of the franking privilege by a handful of Congressmen has become a national scandal," Bell declared. "The best way to expose the guilty and protect the innocent is to encourage the special prosecutors to continue their well-started work."

The special grand jury, in session here since the middle of September, had indicted three persons. Frank B. Burch, Akron (O.) lawyer, later pleaded guilty to being an unregistered agent for the German government, was fined \$1000, and sentenced to a probated jail term. George Sylvester Viereck, of New York, registered German agent, was indicted as not registering all his activities; and George Hill, secretary of Representative Hamilton Fish (Republican), of New York, was indicted on two counts of perjury involving the inquiry.