

Jury Hears Mailing List Compilers

Principal Witness Ordered to Return For Third Grilling

By Dillard Stokes
Post Staff Writer

Bessie Feagin, a tall, smiling brunette in tailored green plaid, who once got up a mammoth anti-interventionist mailing list, spent her second day before the special grand jury on German agents yesterday.

Miss Feagin and others connected with the mailing list were summoned here from New York, where she worked for the magazine, Scribner's Commentator. At the conclusion of the hearing yesterday, she was ordered to come back this afternoon for a third grilling before the investigators who have charged that Nazi propaganda was mailed under Congressional frank.

Others Testify

Preceding Miss Feagin on the witness stand were Gladys La Vance, employe of a New York bank, and Mrs. Esther Van Sciver, who said in an affidavit that she and Miss La Vance were employed to get up a mailing list of persons who wrote letters to Charles A. Lindbergh, former Senator Rush D. Holt (Democrat) of West Va., and Representative Hamilton Fish, whose office aid, George Hill, was indicted by the special grand jury on two counts of corrupt perjury.

Mrs. Van Sciver said the list, prepared with "utmost secrecy," was gotten up under the direction of Miss Feagin, for Scribner's Commentator. The workers on the list, said Mrs. Sciver, were told it was designed to "keep America out of war" and to "save the country from Roosevelt."

Steuben Unit Head Testifies

Beside the Misses Feagin and La Vance, a witness yesterday was Arthur Junga, a short, nervous man with a bald spot and a great disinclination to answer inquires about himself. Junga is the "magistrate" (which he said means "chairman") of New York Unit 55 of the Steuben Society.

It was Junga who signed announcements that members of his society who came to meetings would be provided with reprints from the Congressional Record which could be mailed without postage. The reprints were provided, as promised, with the Congressional franks of Senators Burton K. Wheeler, Gerald D. Nye and others. And they were mailed.

Junga was totally uninterested in telling how many franked envelopes his organization handled, what member of Congress supplied them, who

See AGENTS, Page 4, Col. 4.

paid for them and who gave the Steuben Society authority to mail them without paying postage stamps. He was released by the grand jury yesterday.

Special Prosecutors William Power Maloney and Edward J. Hickey, jr., declined to comment on the current phase of the German agent investigation, referring questioners to indictments already returned by the grand jury.

One of these, named Frank B. Burch, Akron (Ohio) lawyer, as an agent of the German government,

Lists Were Secretly Compiled, Nazi Probers Told

who received \$10,000 for anti-interventionist propaganda, working under the direction of the German consul in Cleveland. Burch's activities included clandestine mailing thousands of copies of Scribner's Commentator and other thousands of reprints of articles from the magazine. He pleaded guilty, paid a \$1000 fine and because of his age was excused from serving his 8-to-24 month prison term.

Viereck Indicted

A second indictment charged that George Sylvester Viereck, chief of Hitler's propaganda machine in this country, financed two anti-interventionist committees run by Prescott Dennett in order to use them to get Nazi propaganda printed in the Congressional Record and mailed under Congressional frank.

Charged with perjury in a third indictment was George Hill, 45, who works for Representative Hamilton Fish. He sent a House truck in which Dennett got rid of a ton of franked mail a few hours after the grand jury summoned him. Hill had some of this mail placed in a storeroom used by Fish.

Fish Backs Hill's Story

When Fish made the speech in which he told the House the same story about the mail bags that Hill told the grand jurors (who indicted Hill for perjury after hearing it) Fish referred to Hill a score of times as "my secretary." After the man was indicted Fish said he would back him up 100 per cent, but that Hill was "a clerk, not my secretary."

The grand jurors also charged that Hill swore falsely when he denied contact with Viereck.

Still unsolved is the mystery of where Hill, who makes \$2000 a year, got \$12,000 in the last five months. He refused to tell the grand jury where he got the money

and nobody else has professed to know anything about the source, except Fish, who issued a statement that "the insinuation" that it came from subversive sources is "utterly ridiculous and preposterous."

The grand jurors are expected to invite Fish to tell them more.