

Girl Answers Propaganda Probe Queries

T-H 11/7/44
Instructed by Court,

Miss Feagin Testifies On Mailing List

By CHALMERS M. ROBERTS

Bessie Feagin, tall and comely, twisted nervously in the witness chair in District Court yesterday and, after two false starts, gave testimony satisfactory to the Grand Jury and the Justice Department in the latter's current investigation of Nazi propaganda in the United States.

Miss Feagin is sales promotion manager for Scribner's Commentator, a magazine of noninterventionist leanings.

Concerns Key Mailing List

Her testimony concerned compilation of what William Power Maloney, special Justice Department prosecutor, called a "master mailing list" containing a "good many hundreds of thousands of names" used to "circulate propaganda material throughout the country."

According to Maloney, some of this material was sent postpaid and some under congressional frank, and the names, he said, were taken from mail sent isolationist Congressmen, Charles A. Lindbergh, Father Charles E. Coughlin, the America First Committee and other organizations.

Miss Feagin had been granted a 24-hour delay before testifying yesterday in order to consult a lawyer. At the time of her first appearance before the Grand Jury, Maloney said it was "well-nigh impossible" to obtain "reasonable answers" to the jury's questions.

Asks Further Delay

Yesterday morning Miss Feagin appeared after being advised by an attorney concerning the laws governing perjury and testimony before grand juries. Then she asked for a further delay until 2 p.m.

With some display of impatience, Justice Morris granted her request. At 2 p.m. he instructed her to return to the jury room and search her memory, adding, "If there is any show of recalcitrance on the part of the witness, I'll go into it further."

It was then Miss Feagin testified for two hours. At the end, Maloney said he was satisfied, and released her from subpoena for the time being.

The jury then recessed until next Wednesday when it expects to hear two of Miss Feagin's employers, who, she said, talked over matters with her before her first appearance before the Grand Jury.

Moves to Inspect Minutes

In its investigation of alleged misuse of the franking privilege, the Grand Jury has indicted George Hill, a member of the staff of Representative Hamilton Fish (R.), of New York.

Yesterday, Hill's attorney, William F. Cusick, filed motion to inspect the jury's records, and a demurrer to a perjury indictment against Hill.

Rearrangement of George Sylvester Viereck, indicted Nazi agent, was set by Justice Morris for Monday. Viereck will enter pleas to three counts against him.