

## Mr. Fish Subpenaed

There is nothing unusual in the action of the special grand jury in commanding Representative Hamilton Fish to testify before it next Wednesday. This jury has an important assignment. It is investigating Nazi agents who are alleged to have violated the law in order to influence our national policy through secretly disseminated propaganda. The grand jury believes that Mr. Fish can throw some light on various aspects of its investigation. So it has quite properly taken the initiative in issuing a subpoena summoning him to appear.

Among other things, the grand jury wants to know how a large quantity of unaddressed franked envelopes got into the possession of an alleged Nazi propaganda ring. It wants to know why George Hill, a clerk in Mr. Fish's office, sent a House Office Building truck to the office of Prescott Dennett to take away 20 mailbags after Mr. Dennett had been called before the grand jury. It wants to know why Mr. Hill gave orders to place part of these bags containing franked envelopes stuffed with isolationist speeches in a storeroom used by Mr. Fish. The New York Congressman undertook to tell the House the story of these mailbags. So it is natural for the grand jury to seek whatever information Mr. Fish possesses.

It is true that Mr. Hill told the grand jury substantially the same story about the mailbags that Mr. Fish told on the floor of the House. But the grand jury was not satisfied. It indicted Mr. Hill on two charges of perjury. Mr. Hill's attorney intimated in court that the charge was really aimed at Representative Fish. That, too, seems to strengthen the case for a full explanation by Mr. Fish himself before the jurors who are trying to sift truth from rumor and hot air.

Special Prosecutor William Power Maloney told the District Court that Mr. Hill had admitted receiving at least \$12,000 within the past five months from sources he would not disclose. He described Mr. Hill as the "key man here in Washington" of a propaganda machine "master-minded by German agents." A subsequent statement by Congressman Fish declared that "the insinuation that any of this money came from subversive sources . . . is utterly ridiculous and preposterous." These words seem to imply that Mr. Fish has undisclosed information as to the source of the mysterious \$12,000.

In the same statement Mr. Fish referred to "official records" of disbursements for sending out Congressional speeches. Undoubtedly the grand jury would like to see those records. And since Mr. Fish said the records had been kept, "with no thought or attempt at concealment," he will doubtless be willing to produce them for the grand jury. Considering these various factors, and the importance of the current investigation, the grand jury would have been remiss in its duty if it had not summoned Mr. Fish to obtain his testimony in full detail. The fact that Mr. Fish is a member of Congress in no way relieves him of the responsibility of contributing whatever information he possesses bearing upon alleged violation of the law. On the contrary, men in high positions have a double obligation to give their full cooperation to judicial agencies engaged in enforcement of the law.