

Fish Plans to Appear Before Grand Jury Probing Propaganda

12/28/41
Representative Offers
To Testify at Inquiry
After Next Tuesday

Representative Fish, Republican of New York today notified the grand jury investigating Nazi propaganda that he would be ready to make a personal appearance before that body, probably early next week.

Mr. Fish sent to the grand jury a letter asking that a date be fixed for his appearance at a time which would not conflict with meetings of House committees of which he is the ranking minority member. It was understood that the time fixed may be 9 a.m. next Wednesday.

The grand jury is understood to want to question Mr. Fish about alleged use of his franking privilege by propaganda groups. Mr. Fish's letter to the grand jury was in an official congressional envelope, but bore a stamp.

Representative's Letter.

In his letter, Mr. Fish said:

"Having returned from a tour of duty as a colonel in Army maneuvers in South Carolina, I beg to advise you that I shall be ready to appear before you should you yourselves desire by appearance at such time as you shall fix when the House of Representatives or its Committees on Foreign Affairs or Rules, of which committees I am the ranking minority member, are not in session.

"Because of several long-standing engagements I have outside of Washington, I shall appreciate it if you will fix some day after December 2."

Mr. Fish, when subpoenaed by the grand jury earlier this month, laid the issue before the House. His problem was considered by the House Judiciary Committee and finally the House itself decided to "permit" him to appear before the grand jury.

Mr. Fish's secretary, Walter Reynolds, was recalled by the grand jury today for further questioning as it resumed sessions after a recess taken earlier in the week. Another employe in Mr. Fish's office, George Hill, now faces trial after an indictment on two counts of perjury.

Other Jury Witnesses.

Three other witnesses who are connected with the publishing business testified before the grand jury today. They were Seward Collins of the American Review Book

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Fish

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Shop, described as a friend of George Sylvester Viereck, registered German agent, who has been indicted for allegedly withholding information from the State Department; George T. Eggleston, editor of Scribner's Commentator, and Douglas M. Stewart, publisher of the Commentator, which is printed in Lake Geneva, Wis.

A previous witness, Miss Bessie Feagin, promotion manager for the Commentator, had been brought before Justice James W. Morris in District Court and charged by the Government prosecutors with being a recalcitrant witness.

In open court it was explained that information was being sought from her about a so-called master mailing list alleged to be used in Nazi propaganda.

She returned to the grand jury and testified for some time after being admonished by the court.

Another Witness Sought.

Another witness from Scribner's Commentator is still being sought by the Government prosecutors, after he did not appear when expected earlier this week. He is Ralph Townsend, a special writer, understood to have handled the so-called master mailing list.

Both Mr. Townsend and Mr. Collins had been expected to appear at the grand jury session early this week, and Mr. Collins showed up today accompanied by his counsel, John O'Shea of New York.