

Fish Aide Wins New Delay in Perjury Trial

F-#12/2/44
General Court Term

Ruling Refers Case to Justice Goldsborough

The Government lost a round yesterday in its efforts to get a speedy trial for George Hill, secretary to Representative Hamilton Fish (R.), of New York, on perjury charges.

Justice James W. Morris, in Criminal Court No. 2, who had been expected to announce the date on which Hill will be tried, instead told opposing counsel that in the future assignments of criminal cases will be supervised by Justice T. Alan Goldsborough in Criminal Court No. 1.

General Term Ruling

"To avoid confusion and centralize authority," Justice Morris said, "so that available criminal divisions of the court will be utilized to their fullest capacity, the Court in General Term today adopted a rule which places in the justice presiding in Criminal Court No. 1 the authority to supervise and control the assignment of criminal cases.

"In accordance with the policy expressed in this rule, I hereby refer to Justice Goldsborough the request of the parties to set a date for the trial of the case."

Hill is under indictment for allegedly giving false testimony before the special Grand Jury investigating Nazi propaganda activities.

Maloney Chagrined

Government counsel, William P. Maloney and Edward J. Hickey, were plainly chagrined at yesterday's turn of events. Previously, they had clashed in court with Hill's lawyers, John F. Cusick and former Representative John J. O'Connor, of New York, on the necessity of an early trial for the congressional secretary, whom they termed "the key man in a campaign to distribute Nazi propaganda in this country."

Due to pressure of pending cases, Justice Goldsborough is not expected to set a trial date for Hill for several days.

Meanwhile, Representative Fish, who has been attending Army maneuvers in the South for the last two weeks as colonel of reserves, returns to Washington this week and will testify before the propaganda jury Friday morning. He is to be asked to shed light on what the Department of Justice regards as the campaign of Nazi propagandists to distribute subversive material through the mails under the franks of isolationist Congressmen.