

U. S. Agents Seize Franked Envelopes

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Isolationist Groups'
Offices Yield Matter
Issued Congressmen

By Dillard Stokes
Post Staff Writer

Bales of unused postage-free envelopes, given Congressmen for their official mail, but found in the Washington offices of two isolationist groups, are part of the evidence in the District grand jury's investigation of suspected Nazi agents in this country.

The envelopes were taken by Department of Justice officials from the Make Europe Pay and Islands for War Debts Committees. Originally they were issued to:

Representative Stephen A. Day (Republican), of Illinois.

Representative Martin L. Sweeney (Democrat), of Ohio.

Senator D. Worth Clark (Democrat), of Idaho.

Senator Gerald P. Nye (Republican), of North Dakota.

Representative George H. Tinkham (Republican), of Massachusetts.

The late Senator Ernest Lundeen (Farmer-Labor), of Minnesota.

Former Representative J. Thorkelson (Republican), of Montana.

German Aid Charged

The fresh, unused envelopes—un-addressed but containing speeches of isolationist members of Congress—were part of a truckload of material given up by Prescott Dennett, secretary of the committees. Dennett surrendered the documents after the grand jury haled him before Justice Jesse C. Adkins of the District Court.

Special Assistant Attorney General William Power Maloney charged in open court that "known German agents" gave money to both the committees. Dennett was "flagrantly contumacious" and ought to be dealt with by the court, Maloney said, for failing to supply evidence sought by the grand jury.

Dennett was ordered both by Foreman John Gorrell and by a subpoena to produce his account books, membership lists and correspondence files. He failed to do so, but accepted Justice Adkins' suggestion that he make all his records available to the prosecutors.

When the possible contempt of court proceedings against Dennett were reopened yesterday, the prosecutors were busy going through the Dennett material. Maloney asked that action be postponed until the study was complete. Special Assistant Attorney General Edward J. Hickey indicated that they were through with both Dennett and the Columbia Press Service, 1430 Rhode Island Avenue Northwest, of which

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Dennett is manager. The documents wanted by the grand jury were taken from the press service office.

Only one of the legislators whose franked envelopes were found in Dennett's offices was available for comment last night.

"I don't know anything about it," said Senator Clark. "I don't know how they (the envelopes) got there. I never gave them to him."

There was no answer to Senator Nye's telephone, and Representative Sweeney was reported out for the evening. Representative Tinkham has no telephone at home. Representative Day has recently moved and no new telephone is listed for him. Former Representative Thorkelson no longer lives in Washington.

Maloney and Hickey indicated that when the investigation is resumed today they will question witnesses about the operation of book-publishing houses suspected of being controlled and financed by agents of the German government.

Chief target among these suspects is Flanders Hall, Inc., Scotch Plains, N. J., whose president, Siegfried Hauck, was questioned last week.

Envelopes Found Group's Offices

This firm issued a series of anti-British and pro-German books.

Frank B. Burch, an isolationist and Republican leader in Akron, Ohio, pleaded not guilty before Justice Adkins yesterday to an indictment charging that he failed to register himself as an agent of the Berlin government.

Burch posted \$1000 bond, which was secured by the National Surety Co. of New York. He was aided at the arraignment by John E. Laskey, former district attorney here. However, Laskey said he would not remain in the case and that Burch would get another lawyer.

The Burch indictment, returned Tuesday, was the first presented since the propaganda investigation began. The grand jurors charged that he was a German agent from January 1, 1940, to July 15, 1941. In this period, the indictment said, Burch got \$10,000 from Karl Kopp, the German consul in Cleveland, and spent it circulating propaganda against the Lend-Lease Act and other measures.

To the Associated Press Burch issued a statement denying that he was obliged to register as a foreign agent and asserting that he never did anything against the national defense. He declared the Lend-Lease Act "was an act on our part toward engaging in the European war."