

Evidence in Nazi Probe 'Turn Up' At Rep. Fish's Bin in House Storeroom

By Dillard Stokes

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Eight mailbags crammed with anti-Roosevelt speeches by many members of Congress, in franked envelopes, which 10 days ago were spirited away from grand jurors investigating German agents here, "turned up" yesterday in a storeroom in the new House Office Building.

The bags were piled in front of a bin assigned to Representative Hamilton Fish (Republican), of New York, in Storeroom 30, on the sixth floor. This was where George Hill, one of Representative Fish's secretaries, ordered them put on the morning he sent the House truck which took them off the hands of Prescott Dennett.

Dennett, secretary-treasurer of the Make Europe Pay and Islands for War Debts Committees, had been summoned before the District grand jury.

Resume Tomorrow

The investigation of Dennett, whose diverse activities have occupied the grand jurors for more than a week, and will concern them again tomorrow, is one of the major interests of the Department of Justice at this time.

Why there should have been available to him 20 mail bags and several boxes of franked speeches of members of Congress—all isolationists—and how he was able to work off part of his supply on the America First Committee are matters which the investigators are anxious to unravel.

Special Assistant Attorney General William Power Maloney charged in open court that "known German agents" gave money to Dennett's organizations. When Dennett was before the grand jury his memory was hazy when he was asked about his membership and his financing. But he admitted he had records. Under the shadow of a contempt of court citation he agreed to surrender "all" the material in his office. He turned over to investigators a quantity of material, but there was no mention of the 20 mail bags previously removed.

None by Fish

The bags found in the House Office Building contained antiwar speeches, anti-British speeches, anti-Roosevelt speeches.

But the 500 copies of the speech by Rep. Fish, for which he said Friday the truck was sent, were not found in a search of the eight bags.

The truck was sent, Fish explained, when Dennett telephoned Hill and said there were 500 copies of a Fish speech on hand, which Dennett's group had not mailed out.

Hill wanted those speeches back,

See BAGS, Page 12, Column 1.

Post 9/28/41



Post Staff Photo

"DOMESTIC"—Some of the eight mail bags filled with evidence in the District Grand Jury's investigation of Nazi agents, which turned up yesterday in the House storage room. Representative Fish admitted that his office had supplied the truck that hauled the bags from the office of Prescott Dennett while the latter was to testify before the jury

8 Bags of Fish Storage Room

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so about 9 o'clock on the morning of Friday, September 19, he sent a House truck driven by Charles Wilson, 25, 305 New Jersey Avenue Southeast, to Dennett's headquarters at 1430 Rhode Island Avenue Northwest. Fish explained.

Dennett had been served with a grand jury subpoena the night before.

The truck picked up a score of bulging mailbags, and dropped part of them at the America First Committee, 126 C. Street Northeast. Perhaps the 500 copies which Fish's secretary wanted back were in one of the bags left there.

Court Takes Them

Last Thursday, the America First Committee turned 10 mailbags over to United States deputy marshals, honoring a subpoena issued by Justice Jesse C. Adkins, of the District Court.

The subpoena was addressed to Miss Isabel French, the committee's office manager, requiring her appearance before the grand jury.

"And bring with you," Justice Adkins commanded, "the 12 mail sacks containing printed and written matter, envelopes, or other material delivered at the request of Hamilton Fish, member of Congress, to the America First Committee by mail truck of the House of Representatives on Friday, September 19, in the forenoon or early afternoon, and identified as coming from the residence of Prescott Dennett, 1430 Rhode Island Avenue Northwest, Washington, D. C."

Eight more bags the truck delivered to the House Building, where Hill ordered them taken to the storage room. By a blunder, an employe took them instead to Representative Fish's office, where Hill said he "didn't want them there" and ordered them taken out at once.

After the affair became public Friday morning, Representative Fish said he knew nothing about any bags being stored in the House Building, that some bags addressed to the America First Committee were brought there but his secretary refused to accept them.

But They Were Left

Yesterday, Representative Fish's senior secretary, Walter L. Reynolds, announced that "about 10 filled mailbags have been found just outside Mr. Fish's storage room."

"They are not ours," said Reynolds. "We don't care what happens to them. Mr. Fish said yesterday that the Department of Justice can have them if it wants them. You can come and get them yourself, if you want to."

When The Post accepted the invitation, it was found that one of the bags had a tag with this address on it: "Cong. Fish, Attention Mr. Hill."

Other Tags Gone

There were address tags on the other mailbags when they were delivered, but yesterday they were gone. What happened to them may be a subject of inquiry tomorrow, when Prosecutor Maloney and Special Assistant Attorney General Edward J. Hickey have announced they will take possession of the bags.

Inside the bags, in unaddressed franked envelopes—ready to be carried through the mail free, for whoever might address them—were bales of reprints from the Congressional Record. Here are some of them:

Speeches of Senator Robert R. Reynolds (Democrat), of North Carolina, on a resolution to acquire British possessions in the Western Hemisphere in part payment of war debts, and on "The Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee."

Extension of remarks by Senator Gerald P. Nye (Republican), of North Dakota, on "The late Senator Ernest Lundeen and the Islands for War Debts Defense Committee."

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An article called "Americans Must Win War on Poverty or Be Kicked Into Foreign Wars," which was inserted into the Record by former Senator Lynn J. Frazier (Republican), of North Dakota.

Extension of remarks of Senator Henrik Shipstead (Farmer-Labor), of Minnesota, on "Powerful Elements in America Desire Us to Take Part in This War."

Lindbergh Included

A radio address by Charles Lindbergh, inserted in the Record by Senator Shipstead.

A copy of a radio address by Representative Martin L. Sweeney (Democrat), of Ohio, who is running for Mayor of Cleveland in the election there day after tomorrow, on the subject, "Let Us be Pro-American and Keep the United States Out of War."

Remarks of Representative Bartel J. Jonkman (Republican) of Michigan, on "Mrs. Roosevelt Mistaken." Printed on a postcard instead of being in a franked envelope, these remarks were a quotation from a Holland, Mich., newspaper.

Speech of Former Senator Rush D. Holt (Democrat) of West Virginia on "Who Paid for 'Stop Hitler' Ads?"

Excerpts from a book called "England Expects Every American to Do His Duty" which were placed in the record by Senator D. Worth Clark (Democrat), of Idaho. This was in a pamphlet which also contained an article from a New York paper entitled "Past Statements of Winston Churchill" and a letter written by Holt after he was beaten for reelection, which was critical of Churchill. Both the latter items were placed in the Record by Senator Reynolds. In the same franked envelope with these was a printed letter in which Senator D. Worth Clark urged "Dear Friend" to:

"Wire or write your Senators and Representatives, and demand that they do their duty to America and block the use of convoys and the war trend now . . ."

"Get additional copies of the enclosed material for distribution to your friends."

Others Present

Others whose franked envelopes were in the eight mailbags were former Representative J. Thorkelson (Republican), of Montana, Senator Robert M. La Follette (Progressive), of Wisconsin; Senator Edwin C. Johnson (Democrat), of Colorado; Representative George H.

Tinkham (Republican), of Massachusetts, and Representative John M. Coffey (Democrat), of Washington.

In one of the eight bags, mingled with the franked envelopes, was a sheaf of unused letterheads of the War Debts Defense Committee. Another bag contained red, white and blue stamps of the committee, apparently designed to be placed on envelopes.

Little of the material had been part of the actual proceedings of Congress; most of it got into the record by the expedient of extension of remarks.

When Dennett was asked where he got the franked envelopes he said he bought the reprints of the record through various Congressmen and that the franked envelopes came with them, being covered by the purchase price.

Congressmen Deny Knowledge

Of these whose franks were included, all who could be reached said they had no idea how Dennett came to have them.

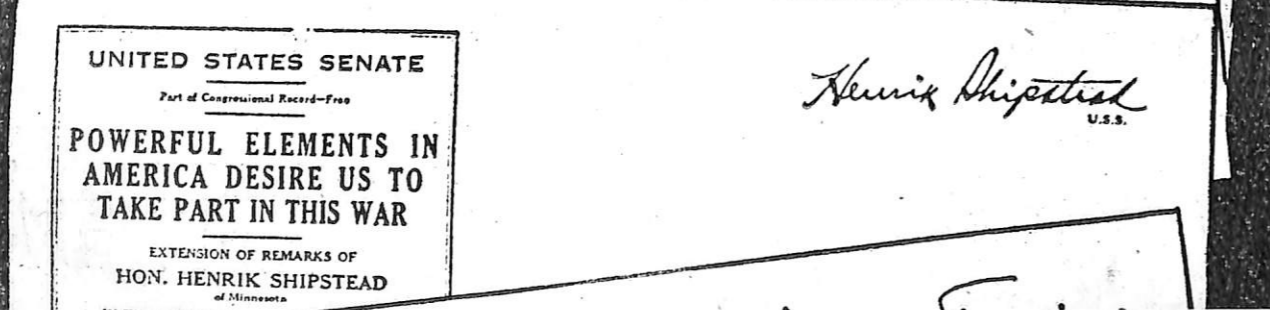
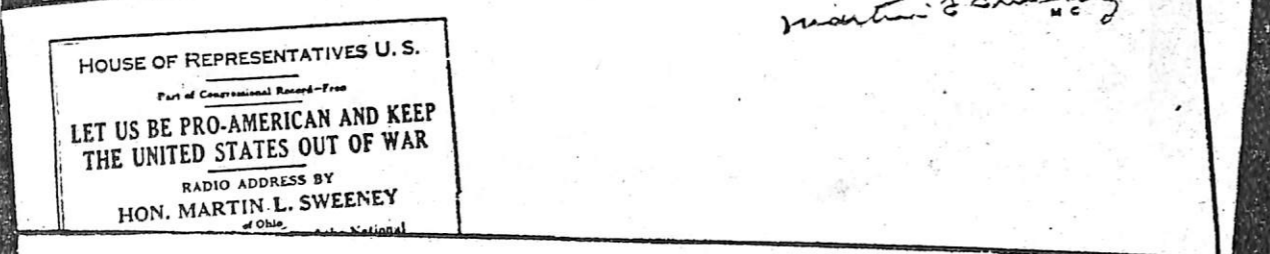
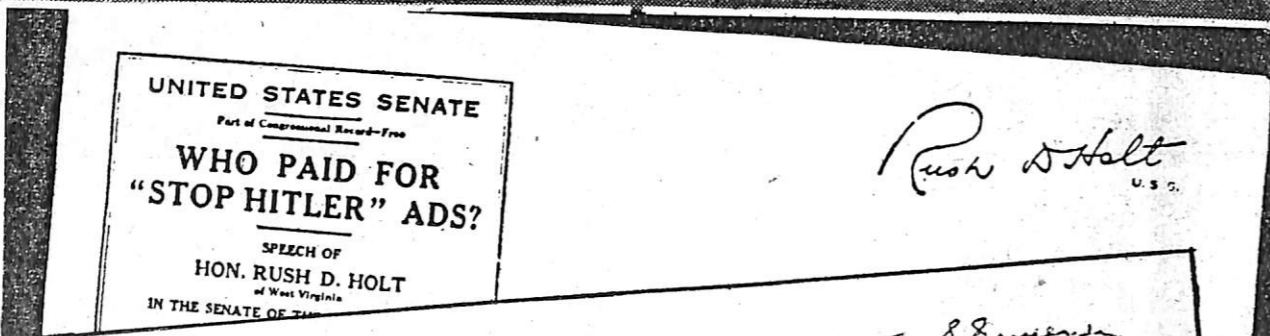
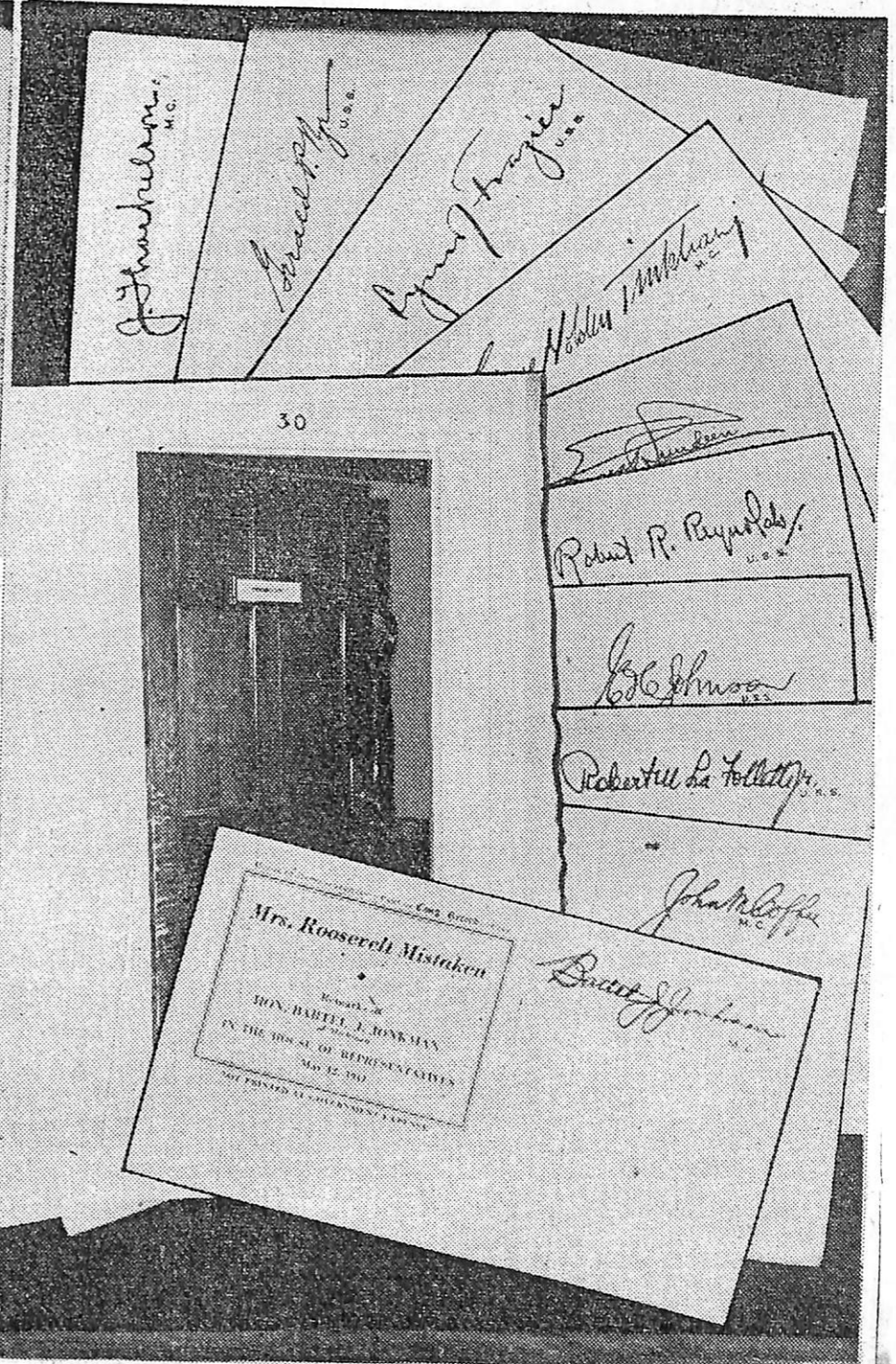
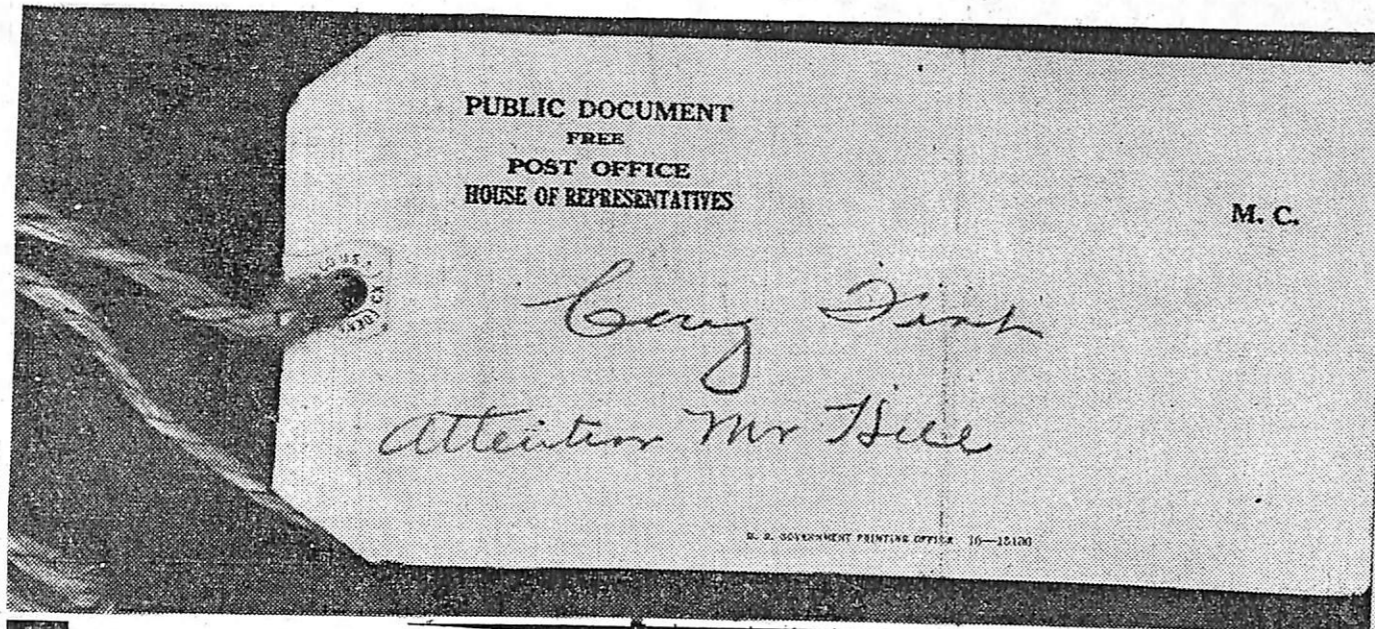
Senator Alben Barkley (Democrat), of Kentucky, on July 28, took occasion to read to the Senate Section 327 of Title 39 of the United States Code, which provides free mailing privileges to members of Congress for correspondence "upon official or departmental business."

Senator Barkley then read Section 335 of this title, which follows:

"It shall be unlawful for any person entitled under the law to the use of a frank to lend said frank or permit its use by any committee, organization, or association, or permit its use by any person for the benefit of any such committee, organization or association. This provision shall not apply to any committee composed of members of Congress."

Senator Barkley remarked that he seriously doubted the propriety of any Senator authorizing the use of his frank by any private organization.

Some of the Items Figuring in the Case of Mysterious Mail Bags



UNITED STATES SENATE
Part of Congressional Record—Free
POWERFUL ELEMENTS IN AMERICA DESIRE US TO TAKE PART IN THIS WAR
EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF
HON. HENRIK SHIPSTEAD
of Minnesota
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Henrik Shipstead
U.S.S.

UNITED STATES SENATE
Part of Congressional Record—Free
AMERICANS MUST WIN WAR ON POVERTY OR BE KIDDED INTO FOREIGN WARS

Lyman Trrazier
U.S.S.

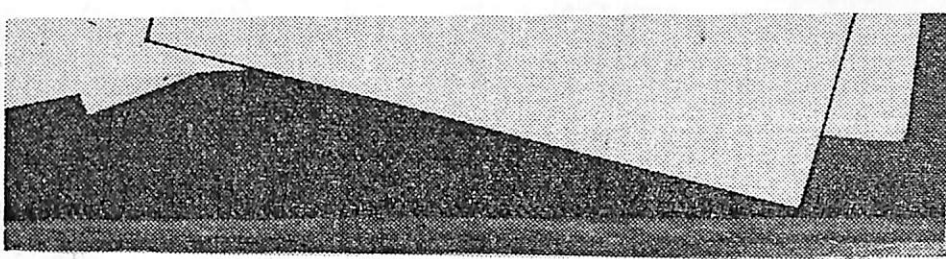
UNITED STATES SENATE
Part of Congressional Record—Free
THE LATE SENATOR ERNEST LUNDEEN AND THE ISLANDS FOR WAR DEBTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE, WASHINGTON, D. C.
EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF
HON. GERALD P. NYE
of North Dakota
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Gerald P. Nye
U.S.S.

UNITED STATES SENATE
Part of Congressional Record—Free
"ENGLAND EXPECTS EVERY AMERICAN TO DO HIS DUTY"
(Extracts from a book by Quincy Howe, published in 1947)
An amazing, historical, and prophetic book published 8 years ago and today partially suppressed reveals the high and mighty manipulations of the British network in the United States—how the world's greatest empire, through its highly placed powerful American intriguers, hypocrites and masterminds the world's richest nation to pour out its blood and treasure not only to defend the world status quo, but actually to enrich that vast world empire.
"In 1917 the United States entered the World War, which not only rescued but extended the British Empire. Today the problem of the British Foreign Office is to repeat the trick and save the Empire from an even greater crisis."
EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF
HON. D. WORTH CLARK
of Idaho
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
March 24, 1941
"PAST STATEMENTS OF WINSTON CHURCHILL"
EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF
HON. ROBERT R. REYNOLDS
of North Carolina
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
March 8, 1941

D. Worth Clark
U.S.S.

MAKE EUROPE PAY
WAR DEBTS
MAKE EUROPE PAY
WAR DEBTS
MAKE EUROPE PAY
WAR DEBTS
MAKE EUROPE PAY
WAR DEBTS



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TITLE 39.—THE POSTAL SERVICE.

c. 370, 29 Stat. 18, June 20, 1906, c. 546, 34 Stat. 477; June 18, 1916, c. 126, § 11, 39 Stat. 162.)

§ 335. Lending or permitting use of frank unlawful. It shall be unlawful for any person entitled under the law to the use of a frank to lend said frank or permit its use by any committee, organization, or association, or permit its use by any person for the benefit or use of any committee, organization, or association. This provision shall not apply to any committee composed of Members of Congress. (June 20, 1906, c. 3546, 34 Stat. 477.)

§ 336. Correspondence of members of diplomatic Corps and consuls of countries of Pan American Postal Union; freedom of postage; free registration; indemnity for loss. Under such regulations as the Postmaster General shall prescribe correspondence of

and such envelopes shall be "envelopes", and shall be sold, at the cost of procuring them, at the value of the postage stamps included in the stamped envelope or any other envelope sold by the Government shall be required for printing or engraving, nor any printing or engraving, except that the usual request to the writer may be printed on the papers inclosed in such stamped envelope. If the postage stamp is of a denomination the postage properly chargeable on mail as prepaid matter. (R. S. c. 456, § 1, 18 Stat. 231; Mar. 3, 1907, c. 733; June 26, 1906, c. 3546, § 1, R. S. § 3915 from Act June 20, 1906, c. 3546; Act July 12, 1870, c. 174)

Post Staff Photos

Recovery—upper left—Picture of a tag off one of the mail bags found in the House Office Building in front of a storage bin assigned to Representative Fish. Bottom left—Some of the unaddressed franked envelopes that were found in the bags. Top right—More of the envelopes showing the franks of Congressmen, and the entrance to the storeroom where the bin is. Bottom right—A section of the code of laws of the United States