

Police Book Fish's Aide For Perjury

Hill Smokes Pipe
And Says Nothing
As Handcuffs Click

By Dillard Stokes

Post Staff Writer

Looking more like a middle-aged professor visiting an angry dean than like the German propaganda machine "key man" he was alleged to be, Representative Hamilton Fish's secretary, George Hill, slipped meekly into District Court yesterday and surrendered on two charges of corrupt perjury.

The special grand jury on German agents indicted Hill on Friday, accusing him of giving false answers to questions about eight mailbags of evidence spirited away by another witness, and about his association with Hitler's master propagandist in America, George Sylvester Viereck.

After the slender, greying Hill on Friday had pleaded "not guilty" in three shrill, clipped syllables, he was released in the custody of his lawyers until 10 a. m. yesterday.

Hill returned when this deadline was ten minutes off. He concentrated on smoking his pipe and doing what he was told, leaving his lawyer, William F. Cusick, to do all the talking.

When Clerk Samuel Silberman said Hill would have to be fingerprinted, Hill nodded sadly. A few moments later, handcuffs clicked about his wrists.

"Do you have to do that?" asked Hill.

"Yes, sir," jovially replied Deputy Marshal Joseph L. Hoffman.

Hill sighed.

Hoffman led Hill downstairs and turned him over to Capt. Normal L. Botsford, who removed the handcuffs for the rest of the trip to Police Headquarters. There Hill said he was 45, lived at 1629 D Street Northeast; that he served two years in the Army in the World War and had been in Washington 20 years.

After being fingerprinted, photographed, weighed, measured and questioned, Hill, still determinedly concentrating on his pipe, went back to the court for his bond to be posted.

Former Representative John O'Connor told Justice T. Alan Goldsborough Friday that anonymous "members of Congress" were going to put up \$5,000 in cash bail money to keep Hill out of jail. These Congressmen remained anonymous, however, and the bond was signed by the National Surety Co., according to arrangements which the company's agent, F. H. Key Smith, said were "made in New York."

Because Hill so doggedly preferred his pipe to conversation, the morning was a total loss for newspaper reporters who had been waiting to ask him more about the \$12,000 he is declared to have told the grand jury he received in the last five months. Who gave him the money and what he did with it are still mysteries. Hill's salary is \$2000 a year.

Jury Still Curious

Special Prosecutors William Power Maloney and Edward J. Hickey indicated that the grand jurors are still interested and that further inquiry along this line will be made when the jurors meet again a week from tomorrow.

Who arranged for Hill's bond was another question that could only be guessed at. It could have been Representative Fish, who said yesterday, "I have confidence in Hill's integrity and I will back him up. I have nothing more to say."

When Fish was asked whether he had anything to do with the bail bond, he repeated, "I have nothing more to say."

And when he then was asked directly if it was not he who arranged the bond Fish hung up the telephone. The two perjury charges against Hill would each carry a 2-to-10-year jail sentence, upon conviction.

Fish Told Same Tale

One count grew out of the story Hill told the grand jury, under oath, to the effect that he did not arrange for the removal of 20 mailbags of evidence from the headquarters of Prescott Dennett, anti-interventionist committee aide, the morning after the grand jurors sent for him. Hill ordered these bags put in a storeroom used by Fish, and that is where they were found.

Hill told the grand jury, and Fish, who, however, was not under oath, told the House in a formal speech, that Hill did not do these things.

The other count grew out of Hill's disinclination to admit to the grand jurors that he was acquainted with Viereck, who was indicted two weeks ago on a charge of violating the Registration Act. The indictment said Viereck used Dennett to get Hitler's propaganda mailed under Congressional frank, in envelopes like those which crammed the eight mailbags.

Viereck, openly registered as a German agent, once acknowledged that he had \$10,000 to spend to promote one anti-British book. For the franking arrangements, the indictment said, Viereck spent other sums.