

Dennett Linked to Nazi Agent With \$10,000

District Grand Jury Presses Questions For Seventh Day

(See the editorial, "Those Mailbags," on Page 14.)

By Dillard Stokes

Post Staff Writer

10/14/41

Prescott Dennett last night was linked to at least one German agent—who had \$10,000 to spend—while developments indicated possible prosecution for unlawful use of Congressional franking.

Dennett, secretary-treasurer of the Make Europe Pay and Islands for War Debts Committees, was questioned yesterday, for the seventh day, before the District grand jury, by which he was summoned the night before he used a truck sent by the office of Representative Hamilton Fish to spirit away 20 mailbags full of unaddressed franked envelopes.

Dennett is proprietor and manager of Columbia Press Service and Columbia Press Photos, operating them as well as the two committees at a headquarters at 1430 Rhode Island Avenue Northwest.

"Literary Bombshell"

Columbia Press describes itself as both a news and a publicity agency.

A few months ago the agency sent out a release which began, "Crashing onto the convoy issue, a literary bombshell of nonintervention sizzled and exploded in the Capital today as many of the Senators and Representatives who voted against the aid-to-Britain bill started checking up on an amazing document exposing Britain as an undemocratic gigantic holding corporation, closely held by a tiny caste of rich families."

Further down in the release, the "bombshell" was identified as "The 100 Families That Rule the Empire," by Giseheler Wirsing, of Munich, Germany, which was published in this country by Flanders Hall, Inc., of Scotch Plains, N. J. This firm, which issued a series of anti-British and pro-German works, was the chief target of the Nazi agent inquiry when it was opened two weeks ago by William Power Maloney and Edward J. Hickey Special Assistant Attorneys General, of the

German Agent With \$10,000 to Spend: Prosecution for Abuse of Franking Privilege

See BAGS, Page 4, Column 3.

Department of Justice propaganda squad.

"In addition to the Capitol Hill recipients," the Columbia Press blurb for "100 Families" continued, "advance copies were presented to Col. Lindbergh, Gen. Wood, head of the America First Committee; Norman Thomas, John L. Lewis and other noninterventionist leaders."

Viereck Wrote Preface

The blurb said the book demonstrated that Britain's world-wide holdings "have proved the greatest graft on earth." Praised also was the preface, by George Sylvester Viereck, which was entitled "On Aid to Britain."

Another release from Columbia Press, at the time of the death of Kaiser Wilhelm, quoted Viereck's encomium of the Kaiser, and said Viereck sent him a copy of "100 Families."

Viereck Registered

Viereck is registered at the State Department as an agent of the German Library of Information, of the newspaper Munchner Neueste Nachrichten, and of Dr. Wirsing, author of "100 Families." The statement said Viereck was supplied with \$10,000 for the book's publishing costs, advertising, publicity, distribution, etc., in the United States.

Viereck's registration said the Germans paid him \$8350 for his services over a six-month period. One of his statements was submitted for him by the New York law firm of Cohalan & Morosini, which appeared for Transocean News Service, at the trial here in which the service was convicted of being a Nazi propaganda agency.

Flanders Hall, Inc., registered as German agents in connection with publication of "100 Families," naming Viereck, Dr. Wirsing and a Munich publishing house as principals.

Clark Denies Giving Them

The shadow of a prosecution for a common evasion of postage fell

on Dennett when the statements of Congressmen and Senators concerned were compared with the known fact of Dennett having in his headquarters about a ton of unaddressed franked envelopes. These postage free envelopes may be lawfully mailed only by a member of Congress or a person he has made his agent for the purpose.

"I never gave them to him," said Senator D. Worth Clark (Democrat), of Idaho.

Representative Stephen A. Day (Republican), of Illinois, said he had no idea how Dennett got his envelopes.

Senator Edwin C. Johnson (Democrat), of Colorado, said "About 14 months ago he wanted me to join his committee and I refused. He asked for some speeches and I told him to see my secretary. He hasn't acted as my agent in any thing."

Representative Fish told the

House, "my secretaries state that they did not send" the speeches to Dennett.

Representative John M. Coffee (Democrat), of Washington, said:

"The speeches never were legally or properly in the possession of Mr. Dennett. If this fellow Dennett had any envelopes of mine, it was not through myself or any of my organization. It would have been over my violent objection, if I had known he had them, if he did have

them. At no time, in any way, have I delegated to him any authority to mail any speeches of mine. I wish

the special assistants to the Attorney General would find out how he got them. No speech or article of mine would be of aid and comfort to an organization with the principles I understand his to have."

Representative Bartel J. Jonkman (Republican), of Michigan, declined to comment, saying the matter was one for the grand jury.

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German Agent With \$10,000 to Spend: Prosecution for Abuse of Franking Privilege Indicated

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Legal authorities declared that mailing of franked matter without being authorized to do so by a Congressman would be within Section 357 of the criminal title of the United States Code, which provides:

"Whoever shall make use of any official envelope, label or indorsement authorized by law, to avoid the payment of postage or registry fee on his private letter, packet, package or other matter in the mail, shall be fined not more than \$300."