

Probe 2 Pro-Nazis Who Paid Off Fish

By Mac Gordon *W/ken 11/11/40*

The web of complicity in the propaganda of Adolf Hitler in the United States this week was wound a bit tighter around the sinister figure of Hamilton Fish, Jr., Congressman from the 26th District of New York.

Subpoenas have been issued by Special Assistant to the Attorney General, William Power Maloney to two men who have been revealed as pay-off men to Fish supporters of Nazi causes in America. They are Gunther Hanson-Sturm and Carl Maack, heads of the Romanoff Caviar Co. Maloney is prosecuting Axis agents in the United States. The subpoenas direct Sturm and Maack to appear before a Federal Grand Jury in Washington which is investigating subversive activities.

The subpoenas were issued after it was learned that the two men had paid out to Hamilton Fish, through the Romanoff Co., \$3,100 in five different checks back in 1939, not long after Fish's return from Nazi Germany where he was a guest of Nazi Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop, flew in von Rib-



HAM FISH

bentrop's plane and put his O.K. on Nazi demands for seizure of Danzig.

Fish claims that the money given him by the Romanoff Co. officials was for his "Keep America Out of War" Committee. In other words, Fish admits that his organization, which bitterly fought collective security against the Axis, was financed by Nazi sympathizers.

OTHER AIDES IN JAIL

Other payments made by Sturm and Maack went to such organizations and people as the Committee for German Relief, to Dr. Gerhard Auhagen, now in jail as a convicted Nazi agent, and to Ralph Townsend, behind bars as a paid agent of Japan.

For more than ten years Fish was a close associate of George Sylvester Viereck, now serving a six-year sentence as a Nazi propaganda agent. In the trial of Vier-

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eck and of George Hill, Fish's secretary now serving a sentence for perjury, it was revealed that Viereck used Fish's office to send throughout the country, on Fish's congressional frank, hundreds of thousands of copies of speeches by so-called "isolationists" in Congress as part of Nazi Germany's strategy to divide and conquer the democratic nations of the world. Fish made a number of those speeches himself, besides aiding in their distribution by Viereck.

The New York Congressman tried to defend Viereck and his activities two months after Pearl Harbor, so that any attempt on his part to cover himself by declaring that all is forgotten now that we're in the war is pure humbug.

Fish has repeatedly tried to appeal to his constituents on the grounds that he was an "isolationist" before the war, did not believe in interfering in Europe's problems, and that if his position were adopted we would not be in the war today.

Actually, Fish "interfered" very much in Europe's affairs—on the side of Nazi Germany. As early as 1933, he was a member of an American Committee whose purpose was to justify and condone Nazi atrocities and methods. That committee was actually the American section of an international outfit organized in Berlin. There was nothing "isolationist" about that activity.

Spokesmen for Ferdinand A. Hoyt, Democratic-American Labor Party candidate opposing Fish's reelection, are quietly optimistic about Hoyt's chances of beating Fish, who has a powerfully entrenched personal machine in the district. A large number of prominent Republicans have formed a committee to defeat Fish, and are actively campaigning for Hoyt. Most of the city newspapers, though Republican, are supporting Hoyt's candidacy. A great obstacle is the unwillingness of the people to believe that a Congressman of the United States can be so deeply involved with Nazis in conducting un-American propaganda.