

Fish's \$25,000 Deal Probed By Grand Jury

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Representative Calls Revelations Part Of Smear Campaign

By GERALD DUNCAN

NEW YORK, Aug. 6 (N. Y. News).—A \$25,000 transaction between Representative Hamilton Fish (R.), of New York, and Gen. Rafael L. Trujillo, military dictator of the Dominican Republic—which, incidentally, was not noted in Fish's 1939 income tax return—is under Grand Jury investigation; it was disclosed tonight.

Asked about the deal, which first came to light in a copyrighted story in the Washington Post, Assistant Attorney General William Power Maloney inadvertently revealed that a Federal Grand Jury had taken up the investigation which was already being made by various other Federal agencies.

"No Comment" Answer

Maloney, who already has convicted Fish's secretary of perjury, said in Washington:

"I cannot discuss a matter now before the Grand Jury. Therefore, my answer is: 'No comment.'"

Fish, at his New York office on lower Broadway, promptly branded the revelation as a smear campaign to avert his renomination at the primary next Tuesday.

According to the Post, the money was deposited to Fish's credit in the National City Bank of New York in July 1939 from a \$300,000 fund established for General Trujillo in this country through the Dominican legation.

It was established that Government agents were delving into the circumstances of the \$25,000 when Collector of Internal Revenue Harry M. Hickey, at Albany, disclosed that Fish's return had been turned over to Hugh McQuillan, special agent in charge of the bureau's intelligence unit in Manhattan. At McQuillan's office it was learned the inquiry was being made by Agent James Sullivan, who gathered evidence that resulted in imprisonment of Al Capone and John Terrio, bootleg kings of the Prohibition era, for income tax fraud. Neither McQuillan nor Sullivan would comment.

Comes the Golden Age

On this occasion, Fish hailed Trujillo as the founder of a golden age and a few days later there was \$25,000 to his credit in the National City Bank. The money came out of a \$300,000 account established for the general through the Dominican Legation in Washington in June, 1939.

Fish got this credit shortly before a trip to Germany on which he was a guest of von Ribbentrop, the Nazi foreign minister, and gave an interview in which he said Hitler's demands on Poland were "just."

Fish said last night that his mission in Berlin and the Trujillo deal were different propositions. The oil transaction, said Fish, "did not have the faintest connection with my trip to Germany, which was the dastardly inference in The Washington Post" yesterday morning.

"None of the credit was used until after my return," Fish added, "and all the funds used were on wildcat oil speculations which were unsuccessful."

The fact is that Fish started drawing against the \$25,000 soon after he got back to this country and started promoting the National Committee to Keep America Out of War, of which he was chairman. This committee was denounced by the special grand jury on Axis agents two weeks ago as a tool of a conspiracy against the loyalty and morale of the armed forces.

Still Has Oil Stock

Fish gave Trujillo back \$12,500, paid about \$8400 for oil stock and put \$4100 in his own bank account in Washington. "I'll explain the \$4100 to Government authorities if and when they ask me about it," Fish said last night.

Fish said he still has the stock certificates, bought for Trujillo but issued in the name of Hamilton Fish.

After three years of secrecy, the public learned of Fish's deal with the general from The Post yesterday.

"It is just a desperate eleventh-hour smear attack before the primary," Fish said of The Post article, adding that the report reached "the lowest level of personal abuse and villification."

From Fish, this was familiar talk, recalling what he said nine months ago when it was disclosed that his secretary, George Hill, sent a House truck to cart off some evidence from the headquarters of one of the henchmen of the German agent, George Sylvester Viereck.

Hill later swore that it was Fish himself who introduced him to the German agent.

Hill went to prison, for perjury, for denying he worked for Viereck. Viereck is serving two to six years for violating the Foreign Agents Act and the man Hill aided, Prescott Dennett, is in jail, awaiting trial for seditious conspiracy.

Trujillo's government has a minister in Washington, Dr. J. M. Troncoso. Dr. Troncoso last night declined to comment on Fish's deal with his chief, confining his remarks to this:

"We find the publication very disagreeable."