

Quizzed Under Oath

U. S. Tax Experts Dig Deeper Into Fish's Trujillo Deal

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Federal income tax experts dug deeper yesterday into the story of the secret \$25,000 representative Hamilton Fish took from the Dominican dictator—Gen. Rafael L. Trujillo—just before Fish went to Germany in 1939.

Fish was quizzed, under oath, by Government agents last week.

This protracted questioning was private, and it was not disclosed whether the New York Congressman stuck to the story he told the newspapers when The Post uncovered his deal with Trujillo two weeks ago.

Fish, who is the ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said he was just an

agent in some wildcat oil speculation for Trujillo, who is the boss of the Dominican Republic.

Fish said also that it was "a direct falsehood" that his income tax returns were under scrutiny.

When the income tax investigation is completed, several points will be up for determination. These are:

1. Whether Fish owes any income tax on the \$25,000 he got from the foreign ruler. Fish paid \$12,500 back to Trujillo and claims he lost the rest on oil speculations.

2. If Fish owes any tax, whether he must pay a penalty for failing to report it with the more than

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\$22,000 that he did report for 1939.

3. Whether there was any attempt to evade payment of income tax, such as would require prosecution. The penalty, upon conviction, is \$10,000 fine, five years in prison, or both.

Fish might not be liable for taxes if he suffered losses during 1939 which would offset the money he got from Trujillo. When the secret deal came out, he claimed that his \$8400 investment in the Nepaug Oil Co., Houston, Tex., was a dead loss.

If Fish was only an agent for Trujillo, the money he got from the Latin ruler would not have been taxable. And it might seem that, if he did suffer losses enough to offset the money he got from Trujillo, he would have reported such losses when he filed his 1939 income tax report. Then they would have offset some of his \$10,000 salary as a Congressman and the more than \$12,000 he got out of his insurance business.

The saving to Fish on his income tax would have been a tidy piece of change.

The \$25,000 was paid Fish in the form of a credit subject to his order in the National City Bank, New York. He transferred \$4100 to his own bank in Washington soon after he came back from a gala reception in Berlin, after which he declared Hitler's demands on Poland were "just."

This \$4100, too, Fish said he could, and would explain to the income tax agents who, he said, were not

investigating his affairs. He claimed that instead of making any money out of what he called his agency for Trujillo, he lost \$2000 or \$3000 of his "own."