

Washington Daily

# Merry-Go-Round

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Few Congressmen realize the ramifications of the franking scandal on which one of their fellow members was scheduled to testify before a grand jury today.

Ham Fish, the witness, who is the Congressman from the President's own district and a grandson of a Secretary of State, may not know all the ramifications either. But he may be able to throw light on some rather large checks which presumably had something to do with financing this much ramified propaganda.

For a long time around the Capital it has seemed strange that when a letter was written to Congressman Day of Illinois (who wrote a book for a Nazi-financed publishing house) the name of the writer immediately turned up on a master mailing list, which was used to send out all sorts of isolationist, pro-German propaganda.

The same was true if you wrote to Senator Wheeler or Senator Reynolds or various other isolationists. Probably they, personally, did not know that their mail was going into a common pool. But certain names were purposely misspelled in letters to Congressmen, and the same misspelled names immediately turned up on the master mailing list.

The Justice Department already has thrown some light on how this master mailing list originally was compiled, namely in the offices of a big motor company. There, a battery of selected stenographers was kept working on the top floor during the fall of 1940 sorting over the mail of Lindbergh, ex-Senator Rush Holt, Senator Nye, and others. No company employes were allowed on the top floor except these stenographers, who were sworn to secrecy.

## Short Wave Radio

Afterward this master list was sent to Scribner's Commentator at Lake Geneva, Wis. This paper, it has now been revealed, operated a sensitive short-wave receiving set capable of picking up even the faintest messages from Berlin.

Meanwhile, in Washington, Congressman Fish's office has been in touch with other isolationist Congressmen, where favorable fan mail has been picked up and turned over to compiling centers which added to the master mailing list.

Ham Fish's secretary, George Hill, also told the grand jury that he had spent a total of \$12,000 in about six months for reprints of isolationist speeches inserted in the Congressional Record. These were mailed out to those on the master list. Hill did not testify, however, as to who paid him the money.

When this is disclosed, Congress and the public should have a better idea of who is behind this, the most ramified and carefully organized mass propaganda attempt this country has ever seen.