

Hill Sentenced; Rep. Fish Again To Face Jurors

T-H 2/11/42
Secretary Gets Jail

Term of 2-6 Years

In Propaganda Case

Representative Hamilton Fish (R.), of New York, again on Tuesday will be called before the special Grand Jury investigating foreign propagandists, it was learned last night after his secretary, George Hill, had been sentenced from two to six years in prison earlier in the day for perjury.

The legislator, who was before the special jury several weeks ago on his return from military service, will be asked to testify along with Prescott Dennett, witness who has been called many times, and a "surprise witness," it was announced by William P. Maloney, special assistant to the Attorney General.

"Surprise Witness"

Although the name of the "surprise witness" was not made public, there was speculation as to whether it might be Hill himself, who remained in District jail last night pending filing of an appeal for a reversal of his conviction by his attorneys, John J. O'Connor and William F. Cusick.

Before sentence was imposed on Hill by Justice F. Dickinson Letts in court yesterday it was indicated that efforts to have Hill "tell all" and thus possibly be put on probation instead of actually going to jail had fallen through.

When asked by his counsel if he had anything to tell the court, Hill replied, "I understand you fellows offered a proposition to them"—indicating the Government attorneys—"and that you went to see them." He said nothing further, however, when asked if he wished to retract anything he said to the Grand Jury.

Unmoved at Sentence

The tall, thin, ex-World War veteran, who has the Order of the Purple Heart, then heard his sentence pronounced without a visible sign of emotion. Justice Letts said he was not imposing the maximum penalty, two to 10 years on each of two counts, adding he had the "views of a number of people, including Members of Congress," in regard to the defendant.