

Grand Jury Recalls Fish

Congressman Asks Clemency for Secretary Convicted Of Perjury

PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Rep. Hamilton Fish of New York appealed to Judge F. Dickinson Letts yesterday to reconsider his decision to send George Hill, the Congressman's \$30-a-week clerk, to prison for from two to six years for perjury.

The Judge promised to consider Fish's belated appeal, but turned down another request from the Congressman—that the Grand Jury investigating Nazi propaganda be instructed not to question Hill further.

Fish's sudden solicitude for his former employe followed his own and Hill's appearances before the Grand Jury earlier in the day. Despite elaborate precautions to keep Fish's appearance secret, it was discovered that the Grand Jury questioned him almost two hours. Later, Hill was brought before the Grand Jury from the District jail. After Hill was returned to jail, Fish visited him for 45 minutes.

Apparently, the Grand Jury's further questioning of Hill and Fish was preparatory to the trial of George Sylvester Viereck, admitted Nazi propaganda agent under indictment on charges of violating of the law requiring foreign agents to register. Both are expected to be Government witnesses against Viereck.

Dennett Again

When Hill was first indicted for lying about his connections with Viereck, Fish expressed confidence in his secretary and promised to stand behind him. But when Hill was convicted, Fish washed his hands of the case in a statement to the effect that Hill shouldn't have lied. Fish has never publicly admitted his own friendship with Viereck, which long antedates the involvement of Hill.

Another Grand Jury witness yesterday was Prescott Dennett, secretary of the Islands for War Debts Committee, a Viereck-financed organization. Dennett's memory became so bad that the Grand Jury haled him before Judge Letts on the complaint that he was being deliberately evasive. Letts placed him under oath and exacted the information that he had received about \$1100 from Viereck. But the Judge himself had so much trouble getting direct answers that he threatened to cite Dennett for contempt unless he mended his ways.

Ingalls Trial

Meanwhile, the trial of Laura Ingalls, the flier accused of promoting the America First Committee as a paid agent of Germany, progressed unsensationally. Her German-born friend, Julia Kraus, former Government employe, testified that Miss Ingalls planned a peace flight to Germany last year.

G-men told of watching Miss Ingalls and Miss Kraus visit the home of Baron Ulrich von Gienanth, Second Secretary of the German Embassy, and of seeing von Gienanth making a return visit to Miss Kraus's apartment. The agents said they did not resort to wire-tapping, but on one occasion heard von Gienanth through the wall of Miss Kraus's apartment say:

"Here is \$50 for your trouble."

Agents also displayed German propaganda found in Miss Ingalls's possession.

—K. C.



Ham Fish, who has renewed his interest in the fate of George Hill, convicted of lying about his Nazi propaganda activities.