

Dennett Avoids Jail By Posting Bond

Dennett Held In \$1500 Bond



Post Staff Photo

PRESCOTT DENNETT, shown entering District Courthouse yesterday, was ordered held under \$1500 bond as a material witness for the Government in the forthcoming trial of George Sylvester Viereck, indicted Nazi agent.

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Court Demands \$1500 To Assure He'll Be At Viereck Trial

By Dillard Stokes
Post Staff Writer

Prescott Dennett—who mailed tons of Nazi propaganda under Congressional frank—escaped going to jail late yesterday by posting \$1500 to secure his presence here when the alleged boss propagandist, George S. Viereck, goes on trial next week.

Meanwhile, the Capitol Hill purchasing agent of the Nazi propaganda machine, Representative Hamilton Fish's secretary, George Hill, accused his former lawyers of concealing important matters from him in the proceedings which ended with his being sent to prison for two to six years for perjury.

Hill asked the United States Court of Appeals here to let him file his appeal as a pauper, without paying costs, saying former Representative John O'Connor and William F. Cusick took all the money he had for appearing in his perjury trial. Their fee was \$1800 and a \$700 note.

Attacked Government Case

Hill was convicted of falsely denying that he knew Viereck and that he hid evidence spirited out of Dennett's headquarters. O'Connor and Cusick attacked the Government case but offered no defense evidence, not calling Hill or Fish to the stand. They quit the case this week, saying neither their client nor the Congressman has arranged for them to handle an appeal.

Hill then retained Attorney Richard A. Harman, who asked for an appeal and gave as one of the reasons, "incompetent and inefficient" defense by O'Connor and Cusick.

After referring to this in the affidavit in the Court of Appeals yesterday, Hill's statement charged "deception by counsel representing him during trial in the District Court by concealing from petitioner certain material matters which petitioner is informed were submitted to said counsel to be submitted to petitioner."

Cusick told The Post last night that he did not wish to comment, and that he had no idea what Hill was talking about.

Denounced by Prosecutors

It was recalled, however, that when Hill was sentenced, Special Prosecutors William Power Maloney and Edward J. Hickey, jr., condemned him for never offering to tell the truth. O'Connor and Cusick did not answer Hill a few minutes later when he asked them, in open court, about a "proposition" they were supposed to have discussed with Government counsel.

The prosecutors said an impossible proposal was made to them by the defense lawyers but refused to divulge anything else that was said.

Since the withdrawal of O'Connor and Cusick, their former client has appeared twice before the special grand jury on Axis agents, which indicted Viereck.

O'Connor tried vigorously to save Representative Fish from appearing before the grand jury last fall. Although they are out of the Hill case, he and Cusick said they were still lawyers for Fish.

Two Plead Sickness

Prosecutors Maloney and Hickey had Dennett placed under bond yesterday after a stormy week in which two witnesses pleaded sickness to keep off the grand jury witness stand.

Justice F. Dickinson Letts, who will preside over the Viereck trial, heard the story of Dennett's evasions Tuesday and pronounced him wilfully recalcitrant. The justice warned Dennett that unless he "talked" Thursday he would be in contempt of court.

Thursday came, and Dennett claimed he was too sick to testify, but the deputy coroner, Dr. Christopher J. Murphy, could find nothing wrong with him.

Yesterday Dennett again disobeyed orders that he come to court, and Dr. Murphy again could find nothing wrong. So a new subpoena was served, commanding Dennett to be at Judiciary Square at 1 p. m., with a warning that a warrant would follow if he did not come.

Like a Man Asleep

About 2 o'clock he arrived, escorted by Dr. Murphy, Capt. Norman L. Botsword, deputy United States marshal, and his lawyer, O. H. Osterman. Dennett walked like a man asleep, with his graying hair towseled.

Ten minutes after he went in the grand jury room, the prosecutor took Dennett back before the court, charging that he again refused to talk.

During almost two hours of waiting for the hearing to begin, Dennett sat at the bar as though he were asleep. Not until Justice Letts ordered him jailed unless he posted \$1500 bond for his appearance next week did Dennett straighten up and begin to reveal an interest in the proceedings.

Osterman said he thought his client's mind was disordered. However, the attorney quickly arranged with a bonding company to post the \$1500 surety.