

Dennett Held to Face Quiz in Viereck Trial

News 2/14/42

Prescott Dennett, alleged to have been paid by George Sylvester Viereck to send reams of Nazi propaganda thru the mails on congressional frank, today was being held under \$1500 bond as a material witness in the Government's case against Viereck, who goes on trial Monday.

Three times Mr. Dennett has been brought before Justice F. Dickinson Letts on charges of general evasiveness. Justice Letts pronounced him "wilfully recalcitrant" Tuesday and warned him that unless he talked Thursday he would be in contempt of court.

NOT SICK, SAYS DOCTOR

On Thursday he claimed he was too sick to testify, but examination by the deputy coroner, Dr. Christopher Murphy, revealed no illness. Mr. Dennett disobeyed orders to come to court again yesterday, and again Dr. Murphy could find nothing wrong.

A subpoena then was served, commanding him to appear at court by 1 p. m. This later was withdrawn and he arrived about 2, looking vague and ruffled. Ten minutes after he was taken to the grand jury room, he was taken back before the court on charges he again refused to talk.

Mr. Dennett sat in seeming stupor for two hours while the hearing continued showing interest only when Justice Letts ordered him to be jailed unless he posted \$1500 bond for his appearance Monday.

Meantime George Hill, secretary to Rep. Hamilton Fish and supposed purchasing agent for the Nazi propaganda machine, has asked the U. S. Court of Appeals to let him file his appeal as a pauper, charging his former counsel, John O'Connor and William F. Cusick, had taken all his money for representing him in his perjury trial.



PRESCOTT DENNETT
Unwilling witness.

Hill had been sentenced to from one to six years for falsely denying he knew Viereck and had hid evidence sneaked out of Dennett's office.

Lawyers O'Connor and Cusick, who received \$1800 and a \$700 note for representing Hill, quit the case this week, saying they had not been engaged to handle an appeal. Hill, thru Atty. Richard A. Harmon, asked for an appeal and charged "incompetent and inefficient" defense.