

British Got Reich-Bound Holt Papers

Bermuda Censor Is Surprise Witness Against Viereck; Hill on Stand Again

By Dillard Stokes
Post Staff Writer

Evidence on which the Government seeks a prison sentence for the German agent, George Sylvester Viereck, wound up yesterday with a string of detective movie sensations.

The District Court jury trying Viereck under the Foreign Agents Act saw and heard:

1. A British censor identify papers linked to Rush Holt, isolationist former Senator, as documents she seized on their way to Germany via Portugal.
2. An FBI expert demonstrate with huge charts that the Berlin-bound envelopes were addressed on Viereck's typewriter.
3. Viereck's lawyers call as the first witness in his defense Mrs. Ernest Lundeen, widow of the isolationist Senator who delivered speeches—his secretaries say—that were partly written by Viereck.
4. George Hill, former secretary of Representative Hamilton Fish, testify that it was his lawyer, former Representative John J. O'Connor, who kept him from telling what he knows about the Nazi propaganda machine.

Special Prosecutors William Powell Maloney and Edward J. Hickey, jr., paved the way for the British censorship testimony by new questioning of Sigfrid H. Hauck, president of Flanders Hall, Inc. Viereck controlled this publishing house, using it to issue anti-British books. Hauck said he gave the original manuscript for Holt's proposed book, "Who's Who Among the Warmongers," to Viereck and never saw it again. Identified by Hauck were several typewritten letters with Viereck's signature on them.

Not until she took the stand was the name of Miss Nadya Gardner, the "surprise witness" from the British censorship, disclosed by the prosecutors.

Identifies Holt Papers

Miss Gardner said she has been part of the imperial staff in Bermuda since October, 1940. She said she recognized the Holt papers as the ones that were in an envelope addressed to:

Sen—or Hoyningero Hueneras
Res Pau dr Bandera 9
Lisbon, Portugal.

Miss Gardner said that was known to the British censorship as an alias of the German Ambassador to Portugal.

The envelope was mailed in New York, July 21, 1941, and inside it was another sealed envelope, with this address:

Dr. Hans Heinrich Dieckhoff
Berlin W.
Wilhelmstrasse 75.

Dieckhoff at one time was the German Ambassador in Washington. And inside the Dieckhoff envelope, said Miss Gardner, were the Holt papers, which Hauck had said he

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turned over to the German agent. Miss Gardner said the British agents in Bermuda were on the alert for mail from Viereck and for material addressed to Dr. Hueneras. She had intercepted correspondence between them she said.

Miss Gardner gave her sensational testimony through "gating-gun fire of objections from Viereck's lawyer, Emil Morosini, New York. Morosini protested that there was nothing in the law to prevent an American citizen from sending letters to people in Germany or Portugal.

Morosini began cross examination by asking whether Great Britain was not at war with Germany in July, 1941.

"Yes," she answered curtly. Morosini asked whether the Bermuda censors did not review all mail that passed there. Courtroom observers listened tensely, sensing that Morosini planned to go into whether diplomatic pouches were opened.

Miss Gardner appealed to the court, saying that extent of the censorship was a secret. Justice Letts ruled that she need not answer. Morosini next asked how many censors were stationed in Bermuda. Miss Gardner again refused to say.

Prosecutor Maloney broke in to protest that the defense lawyer was "trying to pry out information which would be of aid to an enemy of our country."

Justice Letts again upheld Miss Gardner.

On two hat racks and a window pole the prosecutors then strung huge photographs of three letters linked to Viereck and of the typewritten addresses of the documents seized by the censor.

James B. Blaine, FBI laboratory expert, told how he studied these exhibits Monday and Monday night. He said he was sure they all came from the same typewriter.

Dozen Characteristics Listed

Blaine showed the jurors how the W's were all above the line. The S's leaned a little to the right. There was a bit of metal broken off the N's. And so on, until he had listed a dozen characteristics, all marked with red arrows. There were others, he said.

Cross-examined by Morosini's counsel, Daniel F. Cohalen, jr., Blaine said that wear and age might produce the same characteristics on two typewriters. But the odds, Blaine said, were billions to one against it.

With this evidence, the prosecutors rested their case. Viereck's counsel moved that the jury be instructed to acquit the German agent. Justice Letts refused to hear them, pointing out that the defense waived its right to make such a motion by interrupting the Government case to offer evidence of its own.

Morosini has consumed hours reading to the jury from the speeches which Fish's secretary, Hill, admitted he had placed in the Congressional Record after getting them from Viereck's Washington agent, Prescott Dennett.

Senator's Widow Called

The motion rejected, Viereck's counsel opened his defense by calling Mrs. Norma Ward Lundeen, whose isolationist husband was killed August 31, 1940. Mrs. Lundeen wore a black hat with mourning veil, black dress with a large jeweled pin at the collar, and a dark coat with fur collar.

Testifying in a hoarse whisper, Mrs. Lundeen identified a reprint of the speech she gave on the radio, defending the late Senator against "cruel slanders" on the radio by Walter Winchell. Morosini proceeded to read the speech in full.

Mrs. Lundeen, in her speech, said it was a "deliberate falsehood" that Viereck wrote material her husband uttered in the Senate. In this trial, three former employees of the Senator have said Viereck did collaborate with Mr. Lundeen, once calling on the German Embassy for data.

Knew Viereck for Years

One of these witnesses was a former secretary, Edward Corneaby, who ran for Congress in Minnesota in 1940. Mrs. Lundeen said Corneaby used her husband's name in the campaign.

Showing animus like that displayed by Corneaby himself when he was a witness, Mrs. Lundeen said she gave orders that Corneaby be kept out of Mr. Lundeen's office after he was killed.

Corneaby and two other witnesses said Mr. Lundeen made his office staff "kick back" half their pay, which he kept for himself.

Mrs. Lundeen said that her husband had the workers contribute to a "reserve fund" to employ research and clerical help. She said the Senator did not pocket the money.

Mrs. Lundeen admitted she and the Senator had known Viereck for years. She declared she never heard Viereck say anything that would cause her to doubt that he was a true American.

Hill Testifies Again

The widow was explaining her claim that Mr. Lundeen wrote all his own speeches when court adjourned until next Monday.

Purchasing agent for the German agent on Capitol Hill was Representative Hamilton Fish's secretary, George Hill, 45, jailed January 15, but not removed from the House payroll until February 1. He testified last week, and repeated yesterday, that Fish introduced him to Viereck and instructed him to mail out Lundeen speeches for Viereck.

Under oath last week, Fish professed to remember little of this, but denied none of it. Fish made a general denial that his office handled Nazi propaganda with his "consent and approval."

Worked With Dennett

After meeting Viereck, Hill worked with Viereck's Washington agent, Dennett, a promoter of paper insolationist committees, of which Mr. Lundeen was chairman. From Dennett Hill got numerous speeches and contrived to get them in the Congressional Record. With Dennett's money, Hill bought hundreds of thousands of reprints, which Dennett mailed out under Congressional frank.

When the special grand jury on Axis agents sent for Dennett, Hill helped him get rid of a ton of the franked envelopes. After The Post exposed this affair, Hill and Fish both denied it.

Hill denied that he even knew Dennett. His denials were under oath and the grand jury indicted him for perjury. That same day, former Representative John J. O'Connor appeared as Hill's lawyer, saying "I am here to plead Congressman Fish 'not guilty.'"

Shortly before Fish went to Germany in 1939, he set up a committee to "keep the United States out of foreign wars." O'Connor was a vice chairman.

Hill pleaded "not guilty" to the perjury indictment. But he said, yesterday that within a few days, he repented, yet stuck to his perjuries. He was questioned by Prosecutor Maloney:

Q. Tell us how it was that you did not happen to tell the truth.

A. I was at the communion rail at the Fifth Street Church, taking communion, when I made up my mind I was going to tell the truth. That was on a Sunday. As soon as my attorney returned from New York I went down and told him I was going to the FBI and tell the truth.

Q. Who was your attorney
Mr. Morosini: Now, just a minute, is the court please, I object to all this as being entirely irrelevant and immaterial, and incompetent.

The Court. He may answer.

Mr. Morosini. This defendant had nothing to do with all this, it is prejudicial in so far as he is concerned.

The Court. He may answer.

Hill. The Honorable John J. O'Connor.

Q. (By Maloney). The Honorable John J. O'Connor, is that it?

A. Yes.

Q. You went to Mr. O'Connor and told him you were going to the FBI?

A. I was going to the FBI and tell the whole story and he told me to sit down, he says, "you are going nuts."

Q. On how many occasions were you told not to tell the truth?

Mr. Morosini: I object to the form of that question.

The Court: He may answer.

Hill: On every occasion when I said I was going to tell the truth.

Q. (By Maloney): Was that more than once?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us how many times?

A. I don't know, but it was quite a few.

For representing Hill at the trial in which he was convicted of perjury and sentenced to two to six years in prison, O'Connor and his associate, William F. Cusick, collected \$1800 cash and a \$700 note. They did not place Hill or Fish on the witness stand and offered no other defense.

After he was sentenced to prison, Hill told the court his lawyers bungled his case and deceived him by failing to report to him that the Government offered to plead for leniency if he told the truth.

He has said he would have accepted the offer.