

# Senator Lundeen Only A Friend of Viereck, Widow Testifies

## Minnesota Defended Against Charges of Un-American Activities

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By CARTER BROOKE JONES.

Mrs. Norma Lundeen, widow of Senator Lundeen, Minnesota Farmer-Laborite, testifying this afternoon as the first defense witness at the German propaganda trial of George Sylvester Viereck, defended her husband's memory vigorously, denying that he was ever guilty of any un-American activity.

Admitting that Senator Lundeen had been friendly with Viereck—a registered German agent, who is charged with concealing his propaganda work from the State Department—the widow said she had never heard the defendant make “an un-American” suggestion to her husband.

Mrs. Lundeen said she had known Viereck about three or four years and the Senator had known him for a longer period. She added that Viereck had visited their home a couple of times and she had seen him in her husband's office a few times.

### Discussed Speech Together.

Mrs. Lundeen admitted she, the Senator and Viereck had talked over a speech on German-American trade relations which Mr. Lundeen was to deliver before the German-American Board of Trade in New York. But she added that the speech was delivered extemporaneously—“without notes or manuscript.” A former employe of the Lundeen office testified for the Government that Viereck dictated a part of this speech in the Senator's office.

A speech also brought into the

Government's case on German-American elements was one of a series, the widow explained, dealing with contributions which people of foreign extraction had made to this country.

The Senator already had made a speech on the Swedish elements in America, Mrs. Lundeen explained, and the German speech was similar in nature.

“By that I mean,” she told the jury, “that he was dealing with Americans of German extraction, who they were and what they did to help build this country to the great Nation it is today.”

In reply to the charges which two girls formerly employed in the Senator's office made to the effect that they were required to “kick back” a portion of their salaries to Mr. Lundeen, his widow said this money was not for the Senator's personal use, but was used so that he could hire additional research workers for the many speeches he was making the last two years of his life.

### Recessed Until Monday.

Mrs. Lundeen described a visit from an agent of the Internal Revenue Bureau. She said he had a report that the Senator had been collecting a part of his employes' salaries and using the money for his personal funds.

“I was shocked,” Mrs. Lundeen said. “I knew it wasn't true. We kept a bookkeeping system that covered all expenditures.”

Mrs. Lundeen said she and two of the Senator's employes searched the files and found that the money was not placed in her husband's personal bank account but all went for research work.

Mrs. Lundeen had not completed her testimony when court adjourned for the day. The trial was recessed until next Monday morning because the presiding jurist, Justice F. Dickenson Letts, and the other justices of the District Court are required to attend a judicial conference during the next three days.

At the outset of her testimony, Defense Attorney Emil Morosini had Mrs. Lundeen identify a reprint in the Congressional Record of a radio speech she made in May, 1941, defending the late Senator against attacks on his loyalty as an American. The attorney then read the speech to the jury. In it Mrs. Lundeen replied to assertions made by New York and Washington columnists concerning her husband, who, she said, had been “cruelly slandered.”

### Friendly With Viereck.

Senator Lundeen, whose name has figured prominently in the Viereck trial because of testimony from three former employes of his office to the effect that he was friendly with the accused propagandist and that they wrote speeches together, was killed in a plane accident August 31, 1940.

Mr. Morosini sought through the widow to impeach the testimony of Edward L. Corneaby, Senator Lundeen's former secretary. Mr. Corneaby testified to a close relationship between the Senator and Viereck.

Contradicting this witness, Mrs. Lundeen said that when Mr. Corneaby was running for Congress at the time of the Senator's death he used posters and “every available means” to advertise the fact that he had been the Senator's secretary, though he had left Mr. Lundeen's employ some months before.

### U. S. Rests Its Case.

Mr. Corneaby was defeated in an attempt to win a congressional nomination from the old Minneapolis district which the Senator once served in the House.

The Government rested its case early this afternoon, after bringing out testimony to the effect that the British censorship at Bermuda had intercepted communications between Viereck and the Wilhelmstrasse in Berlin, which he had been addressing to the secret atlas of the German Minister to Portugal.

He said that a few days after he was sentenced he finally decided to tell the truth regarding his meeting with Viereck “As I've told it here.”

Earlier under cross examination by Emil Morosini, counsel for Viereck, Hill said that he had not been promised any job, after he serves his sentence, as a result of his testimony at the Viereck trial.

Another high light of the trial today was testimony concerning interception by the British censor at Bermuda of a document allegedly sent by Viereck to Dr. Hans Dieckhoff, former German Ambassador to the United States, and addressed to the German Ambassador to Portugal under an alias.

The document Viereck sent was a manuscript of a book by Rush Holt, former Senator from West Virginia, called “Who's Who Among the Warmongers,” according to evidence brought out by the Government.

An inner envelope containing the manuscript, addressed to Dr. Dieckhoff was inclosed in an outer envelope addressed to “Hoynigero Hueneras” at an address in Lisbon, Portugal. Miss Nayda Gardner of the British Office of Censor in Bermuda, called by the Government as a surprise witness, identified the envelopes and their inclosure. She explained that the name to which the outer envelope was addressed was the alias used by the German Ambassador to Portugal.

“All letters addressed to that name were turned over to me,” Miss Gardner said.

James V. Blaine, expert on documents at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, gave the jury in Justice F. Dickenson Letts' court the opinion that the envelopes addressed

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to “Hueneras” and to Dr. Dieckhoff were written on the same typewriter as letters previously placed in evidence by the prosecution and identified by another witness as having been written by Viereck.

It previously had been brought out that the manuscript by former Senator Holt was to have been published by Viereck's propaganda publisher, Flanders Hall, Inc., but that Mr. Holt withdrew it after it had been put into type. The manuscript consisted largely of clippings from the Congressional Record.

Just before Miss Gardner took the stand, Viereck's American publisher, Sigfrid Hauck, president of Flanders Hall, identified three letters which he said Viereck had signed with a peculiar signature he frequently used. This consisted of the word Sylvester, followed by a square drawn with pen. Mr. Hauck explained that the word Viereck in German meant a square.

### Miss Gardner Saw the Same.

Miss Gardner said she also was familiar with that signature and that it had appeared in other communications she had intercepted.

“I have seen it on several occasions,” the British official said. “Sometimes he signed it G. S., or George S., with a square, sometimes Sylvester.”

Justice F. Dickinson Letts' crowded court room was thrown into momentary confusion late yesterday during the cross-examination of Edward Corneaby, and attendants had to rap sharply for order as the witness said “that's a lie” twice during a blistering interrogation.

Mr. Corneaby, a former secretary to the late Senator Lundeen, Minnesota Farmer-Laborite, was recalled to the stand and questioned by Defense Attorney Emil Morosini.

The witness was asked to name the Washington newspaperman to whom he said he turned over certain “information” after the death of the Senator and some months after Mr. Corneaby had left Mr. Lundeen's employ.

“I didn't turn it over to any Nazi agent,” Mr. Corneaby retorted. “I turned it over to a 100 per cent American.”

And he named Drew Pearson, Washington columnist.

Questioned on “Payment.”  
“What did you receive in return?” demanded Mr. Morosini.  
“I received 100 per cent thanks,” the witness replied.  
“Nothing else?”  
“No.”  
“Didn't Mr. Pearson pay your hotel expenses for a while?”  
“That's a lie,” shouted the witness, “and you've got a nerve to bring it up.”

The defense attorney appealed to the court to direct the witness to answer questions. Prosecutor Maloney was on his feet with an objection. Counsel of both sides were talking at once, and Justice Letts had to quell the turbulence.

Mr. Corneaby later denounced again as “a lie” a suggestion that he had caused to be inserted in an address made at a memorial service for Senator Lundeen in the Minnesota Capitol at St. Paul a “boost” for the witness' current campaign for Congress. “It's ridiculous,” he added.

“Didn't you act as a sort of mas-

ter of ceremonies at the service?” Mr. Morosini asked.

“Ridiculous,” shouted the witness.

“Just answer the questions,” Justice Letts directed.

The defense counsel then asked the witness if he had been convicted of petit larceny in Minnesota in 1909 or 1910 and had served a term in a reformatory.

“I was not convicted,” said Mr. Corneaby angrily. “That's phony information you've got.”

Earlier in the session, two girls who were employed in Senator Lundeen's office, Miss Harriet Johnson and Mrs. Gordon Spielman, described frequent visits of Viereck to the Senator and collaboration between Mr. Lundeen and the German propagandist in the preparation of speeches delivered in the Senate and elsewhere.

Miss Johnson said Viereck once dictated to her in the Senator's offices a portion of a speech Mr. Lundeen later delivered on German-American trade relations.

### Testify on “Kickback.”

Pressing a line of inquiry brought up in the cross-examination of the two girls, the prosecution, on redirect, brought out their charges that there was a “kickback” practice in the Senator's office and they had to give Mr. Lundeen portions of their salaries.

Miss Johnson said at one period she was carried on the Government payroll at \$325 a month and paid back \$180 every month, and at another time she was paid \$150 and required to “kickback” \$15 a month to the Senator.

Once, Mrs. Spielman testified, all the girls in the office drew up a statement “and conferred with people in the Treasury Department,” but the witness added: “There was no alternative except to lose our jobs if we didn't pay the Senator what he asked.”

# O'Connor Advised Him Not to Tell Truth, Says Hill

## Bermuda Censor Tells Of Intercepting Holt Manuscript, Viereck Sent

George Hill, former clerk in the office of Representative Fish, Republican, of New York, told a District Court jury today that Attorney John J. O'Connor, a former member of the House from New York, told him not to tell the truth at Hill's own trial on perjury charges.

Hill is under sentence to serve two to six years in prison for perjury in testifying before a grand jury that he was not acquainted with George Sylvester Viereck, now on trial charged with violation of the law requiring agents of foreign governments to register with the State Department.

Under examination at Viereck's trial again today, Hill was asked by William F. Maloney, special assistant attorney general, when he had decided “to tell the truth.”

“I was at the communion rail at the Epiphany Church one Sunday when I decided to tell the truth,” said Hill with some emotion. “I then went to my attorney. I told him I was going to the F. B. I. and tell the truth.”

“Who was your attorney?” asked Mr. Maloney.

“The Honorable John J. O'Connor. He told me to sit down and when I told him I was going to tell the truth, he said ‘You are going nuts.’”

Hill further testified that “on every occasion when I said I was going to tell the truth I was told not to. This happened several times.”