

'Sensation' Promised In Viereck Trial Today

Secret Witnesses Will Take Stand Against Nazi Agent, Prosecutor Says

By Dillard Stokes
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Witnesses whose names are a closely guarded secret are expected to offer "sensational evidence" against the German agent, George Sylvester Viereck, today, in the sixth day of his trial under the Foreign Agents Act.

"This testimony is sensational in nature and of the utmost importance," Special Prosecutor Edward J. Hickey, jr., said. But he would tell no details, declaring these must remain secret until he and Special Prosecutor William Power Maloney call the witnesses before Justice F. Dickinson Letts in the District Court.

Hickey did add, however, "we believe that what we have to offer will settle conclusively the question of how closely Mr. Viereck was working with the German Reich in his propaganda operations in the United States."

Hill Matter Due for Decision

Another question to be settled today relates to George Hill, former secretary of Representative Hamilton Fish. Hill told last week of receiving material aid from Prescott Dennett, a Washington operative of Viereck's and causing it to be inserted in the Congressional Record. With Dennett's money, Hill bought hundreds of thousands of reprints of this material and Dennett mailed it under Congressional frank.

Convicted of perjury for denying that he knew Viereck and for denying that he helped Dennett get rid of a ton of franked matter wanted as evidence, Hill said last week that he resolved to tell the whole truth a few days after he was indicted.

But he did not do so.

"I was advised not to," he explained to the Viereck jury.

Today he is due to be asked who gave him this advice.

May Close Case Today

The special prosecutors indicated that they will be able to close the prosecution's case today. Their witnesses have testified that Viereck controlled Flanders Hall, Inc., and used this publishing house to issue translations of German propaganda

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books, anti-British in tone, with the German origin concealed. Other witnesses have said Viereck admitted he helped form the isolationist committees which Dennett operated here.

Dennett himself refused to answer any questions about himself, his committees or his association with Viereck. Dennett's reply to each question was that he feared the reply would incriminate him and he claimed a Constitutional right to keep silent. Justice Letts upheld him.

Hill testified that it was Representative Fish who introduced him to Viereck, with directions to aid Viereck by mailing out a speech under the frank of the late Senator Ernest Lundeen (Farmer-Labor), of Minnesota. Fish admitted that this "might have been the case," but said

he did not remember it and denied that his office handled any Nazi propaganda with his "consent and approval." Several of Mr. Lundeen's employes said Viereck wrote the speech.

Viereck's lawyers, Emil Morosini, jr., and Daniel F. Cohalen, jr., of New York, have subpoenaed a list of notables to support their claim that a great deal of anti-Nazi propaganda was being circulated at the same time Viereck was operating his propaganda machine.

Among those summoned were Secretary Morgenthau, for records of the freezing of Axis funds; Secretary Hull, for records of the registration of all foreign agents; Senator Joseph F. Guffey (Democrat), of Pennsylvania; Representative Stephen A. Day (Republican), of Illinois, and J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.