

Fish Shouts 'Lie' at Trial Of Viereck

J. H. 2/21/42
Aroused by Question By Prosecutor About Views on Propaganda

By HARRY E. GABBETT

Hotly resentful of "insulting" questions, Representative Hamilton Fish (R.), of New York, took the witness stand in District Court yesterday to admit and deny little at the trial of Nazi Agent George Sylvester Viereck, who stands accused of failure to list with the State Department all of his activities as a foreign agent.

Before the Representative's half-hour appearance had ended, Special Prosecutor William P. Maloney had been called a "liar." President Franklin D. Roosevelt had been linked with the defendant, the press roundly scored, and George Sylvester Viereck termed "a good American, of long standing."

Hectic Half-Hour at Trial

No more hectic half-hour has been written into the records of the week-old trial which is slated to resume Tuesday at 10 a.m.

The tall (6 feet 2 inches), 190-lb. ex-Harvard, All-America football player, seemed ill-at-ease and perfectly poised by turns as he testified at the prosecution's behest, submitted to cross-examination, and wound up with a dramatic "extension of remarks" during which he declared that "no one ever has questioned my patriotism and never will."

He was somewhat forgetful when he replied to Maloney's questions concerning Viereck's relationships with George Hill, Fish's clerk, who on the day before had testified his employer introduced Viereck to him and assigned him (Hill) to the task of mailing out 125,000 copies of a speech which the Government charges was written by Viereck.

Senator Lundeen's Frank

Hill said the speech had been inserted in the Congressional Record by Minnesota's late Senator Ernest Lundeen and the 125,000 reprints were mailed out under the Senator's frank.

Fish said he may or may not have introduced Viereck to Hill; he may or may not have discussed the Lundeen speech with either Viereck or Hill, and he may or may not have assigned Hill to mail out the pieces in question.

"Nothing has gone out from my office," the legislator said, "directly or indirectly, except speeches by isolationist Members of Congress for the purpose of keeping us out of war, and I certainly have no apology to make to anyone for that."

Fish Accuses Press

Fish said that the first he had heard of many of the incidents which Hill testified had happened in Fish's office was when he "read of Hill's statements in the newspapers."

Fish said he hired Hill "out of sympathy" at \$1,200, raised him through the years to \$2,000 per year, and that his principal tasks consisted of showing constituents around the building.

"He never took dictation—he didn't know how," Fish insisted.

Maloney elicited from the witness testimony to the effect that his associations with Viereck were confined largely to contacts he established with him while Viereck was engaged in an expose of Communism many years ago and that he knew him as "an American citizen, of long standing," and "a great publicist" who wrote for the better magazines.

"I have known Mr. Viereck for years," Fish asserted, "the same as any other public official from New York, including President Roosevelt, Secretary Morgenthau, Senator Wagner and others."

Referring to one of Viereck's published works, Maloney asked,



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Rep. Fish Talks to Press After Viereck Trial Testimony

Following his outburst on the witness stand when he tangled with Prosecutor William P. Maloney, the Congressman from New York was his usual smiling self after his questioning was finished, and he chatted with reporters during court recess.

Viereck

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"Isn't it a coincidence that the views on Nazi propaganda expressed in that book are similar to those you have held as a Congressman?"

The New Yorker half rose from his chair as he shouted, "The man who makes that statement lies." "Meaning Viereck?" Maloney inquired.

"I am referring," Fish retorted hotly, "to you."

He added that he hadn't come to court to be insulted.

Lundeen Employes Heard

Following Fish's testimony, two former employes of the late Senator Lundeen took the stand—the first, Edward Corneaby, of Minneapolis, who was secretary to the late legislator.

Highlight of his recital was his testimony to the effect that he overheard Viereck telephone the German Embassy and ask that material for Lundeen speeches be sent over.

Material Identified

He identified material later delivered as the manuscript entitled "Lord Lothian versus Lord Lothian." He next read the material in the Congressional Record, he said, adding that the envelope in which the original arrived bore the return address of Hans Thomsen, who was charge d'affaires of the German Embassy at that time.

The other Lundeen employe, Mrs. Gordon Spielman, of New York city, testified to conversations between her boss and Viereck relating to the latter's rewriting of Lundeen's speeches.

Under cross-examination by Viereck's counsel, Emil Morosini Jr., Corneaby repeatedly referred to the defendant as "vicious" and a "dangerous character—dangerous to this country."

The witness added that he knew this to be so because he had been advised many years ago by many persons that Viereck was "dangerous."

Dennett Called

Prescott Dennett, ex-director of the Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee, who has been jailed



Times-Herald Photo

GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK Entering Court Yesterday



Times-Herald Photo

MRS. GORDON SPIELMAN Testifies at Viereck Trial

since he failed to make a \$3,500 bond set for his appearance as a Government witness, was called as a "witness for the court."

Asked by Justice F. Dickinson Letts of his association with Viereck and about the committee he used to head, Dennett refused to answer on grounds that it might tend to incriminate him.