

Lundeen-Nazi Embassy Ties Told at Trial

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Viereck Charged
As Go-Between for
Speeches in Senate

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By CARTER BROOKE JONES.

Eyewitness testimony was brought out in District Court this afternoon to the effect that George Sylvester Viereck, on trial of charges of withholding information in his registration as a German agent, telephoned the Germany Embassy and had it deliver to the late Senator Lundeen, Minnesota Farmer-Laborite, material for speeches he later delivered in the Senate.

The witness was Edward Corneaby, who was secretary to Senator Lundeen. Mr. Corneaby said that late in March, 1940, returning from a trip to Florida, he walked into Senator Lundeen's office and found Viereck with a telephone in his hands. The witness said he heard the defendant call the German Embassy and discuss some material which, Viereck was said to have emphasized, was needed by Senator Lundeen at once.

Mr. Corneaby said he heard Viereck say that "Monday will be all right."

Tells of Envelope.

The following Monday, the witness related, he was in Senator Lundeen's office when a young man came in and asked for Viereck. Told that Viereck was not there, the young man, according to Mr. Corneaby, left an envelope. The former secretary said he took the envelope into Mr. Lundeen's private office and tore it open. He said he found a manuscript headed, "Lord Lothian versus Lord Lothian."

Lord Lothian was the late British Ambassador to Washington.

Senator Lundeen was out. Mr. Corneaby explained, and he clipped the envelope together and placed it on the Senator's desk.

"Did you ever see that material again?" asked Special Prosecutor William Power Maloney.

The witness said he saw it in the Congressional Record. He identified a copy of the Record displayed by the prosecutor and containing a speech by Senator Lundeen and said this address contained the manuscript about Lord Lothian he read and "a great deal more besides."

The witness then identified a booklet printed by a publishing house known as Flanders Hall, assertedly subsidized by Viereck, bearing the same title, "Lord Lothian versus Lord Lothian."

Identifies Material.

The witness said he had read the booklet and it contained the same material he first saw in the envelope which bore the return address of

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Hans Thomsen, who was charge d'affaires of the German Embassy.

Mr. Corneaby explained that he had resigned as secretary when the episode he described occurred, but his resignation did not take effect until April 1, 1940. He said he resigned after overhearing a conversation between Senator Lundeen and Viereck about German-American trade relations and other matters.

After he had left Senator Lundeen's office and gone to Minneapolis to leave, Mr. Corneaby added, he returned here in May of 1940 on one visit to Senator Lundeen's office. Found Viereck seated at the witness' old desk. Viereck went into the Senator's private office, leaving a brief case on the desk. Mr. Corneaby said he opened the brief case and found a speech entitled "Putting It Over."

Mr. Corneaby identified a Congressional Record of June 12, 1940, and said he found in a speech by Senator Lundeen printed there the material which he had seen in the brief case.

Former Senator Holt, Democrat, of West Virginia had taken part with Senator Lundeen in the floor discussion printed in this same issue.

Dennett Called to Stand.

Prescott Dennett, former chairman of the "Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee," who has been in jail since yesterday because of his inability to make bond of \$3,500, to assure his appearance as a witness, was called to the stand earlier in the afternoon as a "witness for the court."

Dennett, questioned by Justice F. Dickinson Letts, refused to answer any questions on the ground that they might incriminate him.

Justice Letts asked Dennett a number of questions concerning his reported association with Viereck and about the committee. The court, however, conceded the right of the witness to refuse to answer and allowed him to stand on his constitutional rights. He was excused without answering a single question material to the case.

Testimony Corroborated.

Mr. Corneaby's testimony was corroborated in part by Mrs. Gordon Spielman, who was a stenographer in Senator Lundeen's office. She described seeing the late Senator and Viereck together going over speeches on at least six occasions.

The witness said she heard Viereck say to Senator Lundeen regarding one speech he was about to deliver in the Senate:

"I've tried to phrase this as best I could in the manner in which you speak."

Mrs. Spielman described one time she saw Viereck dictating to another of Senator Lundeen's stenographers in the Senator's office. She also told of a manuscript for a speech which had been written about research and was revised completely by Viereck before Senator Lundeen delivered it. This speech, the witness said, was entitled, "The Contributions of German-Americans to the United States."

Fish Shouts Maloney 'Lied' in Implying He Held Nazi Views

Representative Engages In Sizzling Tilt With Viereck Prosecutor

By CARTER BROOKE JONES.

Representative Fish, Republican, of New York, testifying in District Court today at the Viereck German propaganda trial, shouted that William Power Maloney, special assistant to the Attorney General in charge of the prosecution, had uttered "a lie" when he implied that the veteran legislator held views similar to those expressed in a book on the Nazi philosophy.

The thronged courtroom was electrified when the towering New Yorker engaged in a sizzling tilt with the prosecutor.

Mr. Fish, who had admitted on direct examination that he had known the defendant, George Sylvester Viereck, for many years, and had added that he knew him only as "an American citizen of long and good standing," was asked if he had read a book which the accused publicist wrote in 1930 containing an exposition of German propaganda.

Never Read Book.

Mr. Fish said he never read the book.

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

Mr. Fish, leaning forward in the witness chair, retorted hotly:

"The man who made that statement lies."

"Are you referring to Mr. Viereck?" inquired the prosecutor.

"I'm referring to you," Mr. Fish shot back.

Then, turning to Justice F. Dickinson Letts, Mr. Fish asked:

"Hasn't a man any rights in this court? Does he have to be insulted?"

"I think the American people have been insulted," Mr. Maloney interposed as Justice Letts, in a quiet voice, told the witness he might make any statement he chose.

Not Sent Over His Frank.

Mr. Fish then turned back toward the jury and the counsel table and exclaimed:

"I suspected that sooner or later this Assistant Attorney General would make a statement of that kind. I've been in Congress 22 years, and not one piece of Nazi propaganda ever has gone out of my office with my knowledge or consent."

Referring to a speech by the late Senator Lundeen, Minnesota Farm-

er-Laborite, which Mr. Fish's former clerk, George Hill, testified yesterday he mailed out by direction of Mr. Fish and Viereck, the witness said:

"That speech of Senator Lundeen's was not sent over my frank. I knew nothing about it. I never saw it. I had no connection with Mr. Viereck except to know him as an American citizen. I did not know he was registered as a German agent. My acquaintance with him was exactly the same as my acquaintance with Franklin Delano Roosevelt."

Maloney Charges Insult.

Prosecutor Maloney jumped to his feet and said:

"That is a public insult to a great American."

Justice Letts told the attorneys to proceed with the questioning and Mr. Maloney asked:

"Would you know Nazi propaganda if you saw it?"

"No," Mr. Fish shouted. "I wouldn't know Nazi propaganda if I saw it because I don't know anything about it."

Representative Fish earlier was questioned about Hill's statements. He did not deny he had introduced Viereck to Hill, as Hill testified, but said he had no recollection of it. Mr. Fish admitted Viereck had been in his office, but he could not recall whether the publicist was there the day Hill mentioned, which was during late June or early July of 1940.

Doesn't Recall Meeting.

"I see no reason to deny it," Mr. Fish added. "I don't have any recollection of it, but Mr. Hill says it happened, and I'm not quibbling about that."

Neither could Mr. Fish recall, under further questioning, whether he had ever discussed the Lundeen speech with Viereck or with Hill. It could have happened, the witness conceded, though he said he had no memory of it.

Mr. Fish, before going on the witness stand, gave the press an informal statement in a courthouse corridor in which he set forth the substance of what he later said on the stand.

Mr. Fish said:

"I make this statement because I don't know whether the questions in court will bring out all these matters.

"No Nazi propaganda of any kind was ever given out from my office, directly or indirectly, with my knowledge and consent.

Met Viereck in 1930.

"I have known Mr. Viereck for years—the same as any other public official from New York, including President Roosevelt, Secretary Morgenthau, Senator Wagner and others. I first met him when I was chairman of a House committee to combat Communism in 1930, when he was writing articles for Liberty and the Saturday Evening Post on Communism.

"He has not been in my office for over a year and a half. I had no idea back in 1940 that he was a registered agent of a German newspaper with the State Department, nor did I know or have the faintest idea that he had any connection with editing or revising a speech for Senator Lundeen.

"Nothing has gone out from my office, 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 any one for that.

"I saw that Mr. Hill stated yesterday that he had seen Mr. Dennett (Prescott Dennett, then chairman of an organization to require Europe to pay war debts) in my office frequently. I believe Mr. Dennett was in my office once or twice. But last week I sat in a chair next to Judge Letts' courtroom and after talking to him for five minutes, asked him who he was.

Knew of No Dennett Donations.

"I want it clearly understood I had no knowledge, as Mr. Hill had stated, that Mr. Dennett contributed a single penny to send out speeches.

"Mr. Hill, a disabled veteran, was a clerk in my office. He was not a secretary. Outside of office hours, he acted as a public contractor to send out speeches for members of Congress and he employed women to mail these speeches outside of my office.

"This was the private business of Mr. Hill. He received and sent out some of the speeches by members of Congress, and I never had any knowledge of it or knew about what speeches he may have received. I had no knowledge of who paid for this work.

"He made all the arrangements and mailed them outside of my office. He never used my frank for the purpose. I am not attacking Mr. Hill. I regard what he did as perfectly legitimate."

Mr. Fish, in response to a question about some mail sacks that were found in his private storeroom in the House Office Building, said he

had told the House, in good faith that his office had no knowledge of them, because Hill had told him; he believed the clerk. Hill afterwards was convicted of perjury for testimony before the grand jury: is under a 2-to-8-year sentence.

Says Hill Did Not Tell Truth.

"Mr. Hill did not tell me the truth about that," Mr. Fish added. "But at the time I relied on what he told me."

Asked about the speech "Six Mer and War," which Hill testified he sent out at Mr. Fish's direction under Senator Lundeen's frank, the New York Representative said the speech in question was sent outside of his office and paid for by Senator Lundeen.

The trial of Viereck, who is charged with failing to disclose all his propaganda activities after he registered as a German agent, was delayed more than an hour this morning by other court matters which Justice Letts had on his calendar.

Mr. Dennett, now a key Government witness in the Viereck trial, was in jail today in lieu of the \$3,500 bond which Justice Letts increased from \$1,500 late yesterday after a charge that Dennett had circumvented the rule excluding witnesses from hearing other testimony which had been aired in District Court.

The trial was interrupted dramatically as it was about to recess for the day when Mr. Maloney made the charge. Government counsel said a girl friend of Dennett had had been taking notes in the courtroom and reading them to the prospective witness at recess periods.

The jury was excused for the day as Justice Letts took up the matter. Dennett was called to the witness stand by District Attorney Edward M. Curran, who had been told of the alleged occurrence.

Questioned closely, the soft-spoken former propagandist admitted his friend, Miss Maria Cecelia Waters, had been meeting him for lunch during the trial, and had "read off some notes" about the testimony.

Yesterday at lunch, Dennett said, Miss Waters told him something about the testimony of Hill. Hill testified yesterday, repudiating grand jury testimony that brought his perjury indictment and declared Mr. Fish had introduced him to Viereck and directed him to mail out under the frank of the late Senator Lundeen of Minnesota a speech in which the defendant was interested.

Miss Waters was called to the stand. She denied she had read Dennett any notes, but admitted she had talked to him about the trial several times in the last few days.

"Did you tell him today," demanded Mr. Curran, "that Hill 'didn't do so good'?"

"It was fairly obvious he didn't," said Miss Waters.

"Did you tell him that?" persisted the district attorney.

"Maybe I did," the young woman conceded. "I thought it was unfortunate that he had gone back on his former testimony and admitted perjury."

Dennett insisted that if he had done anything improper, he did not know it, and would like to be corrected and told what he should do. He said he and Miss Waters had discussed the trial in a general way and may have mentioned certain witnesses.

Prosecutor Maloney had asked that Dennett's bond be raised to \$15,000, declaring if he would resort to such a practice to learn what witnesses ahead of him had testified, he could not be trusted and his appearance for the Government should be assured.

Witnesses are required to stay in the witness room when they are not on the stand and all communication with them concerning a trial is prohibited. Dennett was placed under the \$1,500 bond last week when he failed to answer a summons to appear before the special grand jury investigating Nazi activities.

Flare-up in Court.

Emil Morosini of counsel for Viereck said he wanted it understood the defense had nothing to do with the Dennett episode.

"I'm not prepared to say that," said Mr. Maloney. "I don't know."

Mr. Morosini retorted hotly, but Justice Letts explained that the testimony concerning Dennett's alleged misconduct as a witness would not appear in the record of the Viereck case.

The flare-up over Dennett came at the close of court day which brought a sensation in the testimony of Hill, who told his story on a witness stand for the first time since his indictment. He did not testify at his own trial.

Hill said he had received approximately \$3,000 from Dennett to defray the expenses of having printed in the Congressional Record material which the propagandist had furnished and which later was mailed out under the franks of members of Congress.

Hill testified that the Dennett propaganda was put out on his own initiative and Mr. Fish did not order it.