

# Hill Testifies Fish Ordered Him to Mail Out Nazi Propaganda

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**N. Y. Representative Introduced Him To Viereck, Clerk Asserts on Stand**

By Dillard Stokes  
Post Staff Writer

"I am an American!" said George Hill yesterday, and, turning on the people who got him to lie, he told the truth at last—as a witness against the German agent, George Sylvester Viereck.

Hill did not say who was protected by his lying, or who "advised" him to keep on lying when he resolved to tell the truth, after he was indicted for perjury. That may come out today.

Hill did say that his boss, Hamilton Fish, introduced him to the German agent in Fish's office on Capitol Hill, and that Fish instructed him to mail franked speeches for Viereck. Hill told how he operated the Capitol end of the Nazi agent's propaganda machine.

## Fish to Appear Today

Fish will have a chance today to tell what he knows about it all. He has agreed to appear as a witness for the prosecution this morning.

After court adjourned—with Hill's examination still not finished—Prescott Dennett, Washington henchman of the German agent, was jailed, in \$3500 bail—because the daughter of a witness for Viereck was keeping him posted on what happened in court.

Dennett was not supposed to learn this, as the Government wants to use him, too, on the witness stand.

Viereck is accused of violating the Foreign Agents Act by concealing the use of Congressmen and their franks by his propaganda machine. It was well into the fourth day of his trial when Special Prosecutor William Power Maloney and Edward J. Hickey, jr., had Hill brought up from the prisoners' cells at the District Court.

## Swears to Tell Truth

The mild, bewildered-looking little man—who was gassed and decorated in the World War—wore the same shabby brown suit he had on when he was sent to jail two weeks ago, being denied bail after he was sentenced to 2 to 6 years in prison for two perjuries.

Blinking behind his spectacles at the courtroom lights, Hill took the witness chair beside Justice F. Dickinson Letts, who sentenced him to prison.

"I do," said Hill, loud and clear, when asked to swear that he would

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tell "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me, God."

Prosecutor Maloney went briskly through preliminary questions, showing that Hill had worked for Representative Fish for 20 years and that he was convicted of perjury on January 15. He perjured himself by denying that he knew Viereck and that he helped Dennett get rid of eight mailbags of evidence which Hill placed in a store-room used by Fish.

## Admits Knowing Viereck

Q. Do you know the defendant, George Sylvester Viereck?

A. I do.

Q. Do you see him in court?

(Hill looked carefully among the massed faces which confronted him, at length fixing a level gaze on the German agent.)

A. I do.

Q. Tell the court and the jury the circumstances under which you met Mr. Viereck, and the date.

A. It was in the first part of July, 1940, and it was in the office of Congressman Fish.

Q. The circumstances?

A. He came from the private office of Congressman Fish. Mr. Fish brought him over to me. Mr. Fish said Mr. Viereck had some speeches to send out—of Senator Lundeen's. Mr. Fish told me to send them to the mailing list of the National Committee to Keep America Out of Foreign wars.

## Group Formed by Fish

(Fish formed this committee before his trip to Germany in 1939. He was chairman. A vice chairman was former Representative John O'Connor, one of the lawyers Hill since has accused of bungling his defense in his perjury trial and of failing to relay important messages to him.)

Q. What else was said?

A. Mr. Fish left the room and Mr. Viereck asked me how large the list was. I told him it was 100,000 names. Mr. Viereck doubted we had 100,000 names. I showed him the list. He asked me for a copy. We had an extra copy and I gave him one. He asked if there was any other list we could use and I told him of our Who's Who in America list.

Q. Did Viereck give you anything?

A. He gave me a tip. He gave me two bills rolled up. When I looked at them later they were two \$50 bills.

Q. What speech did they have reference to?

A. He told me the speech was "Six Men and War." He told me for all details to contact Senator Lundeen's office. This included payment. He said they would buy about 125,000 copies.

Written by Viereck

(A secretary of the late Senator Lundeen, Farmer-Labor, of Minnesota, has testified that Viereck wrote this speech, which Mr. Lundeen placed in the Congressional Record.)

Q. How was the speech delivered to you?

A. It was sent over and stored in the subway of the New House Office Building. The envelopes were sent to me. I put out 125,000. Senator Lundeen paid me—on two occasions, \$125 each time. The speeches went out under Senator Lundeen's frank.

Hill said he completed mailing lists from Who's Who in America and Viereck gave him two payments of \$50 each for them. Viereck asked about other lists. Hill said, but did not order any. "Viereck told me not to write to him," Hill declared. "He told me he would get in touch with me."

## Often Saw Dennett

Often in and out of Fish's office, said Hill, was Prescott Dennett. Hill said he next saw Viereck one night when he had been to Dennett's headquarters, after which he saw Dennett and the German agent together in a Connecticut Avenue restaurant.

Like every witness who has taken the stand for the Government, Hill was frequently interrupted by heated objections from Emil Morosini, jr., one of the German agent's lawyers.

When Hill mentioned Dennett's Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee, Morosini broke in, protesting that there had been no evidence to connect Viereck with the group. "Very well," snapped Prosecutor Maloney, "we will withdraw this witness and supply the connection."

## Expectant Mother on Stand

Mrs. J. Frank Webber, who will become a mother in a few weeks, took the stand.

Answering the questions of Prosecutor Hickey, Mrs. Webber said she first met Viereck in his apartment on Riverside Drive in New York City. She had gone there with her husband, who like herself, was

working for the War Debts Committee.

"We went there about the middle of October, 1940," said Mrs. Webber, "to pick up a box that was sent there at Mr. Dennett's request. We went into Mr. Viereck's den. There was a picture of Hitler on the wall. Mr. Viereck came in and I told him I had come to take my belongings that were in the box."

"Mr. Viereck asked me about mailing lists and I told him that all that were done were put in the box."

Prosecutor Hickey reached into the Government's heaped up evidence and plucked out a mailing list, one which was identified yesterday by Sigfrid H. Hauck, president of Flanders Hall, Inc., which published anti-British propaganda for Viereck. The German agent had got control of the firm and, Hauck said, had put \$22,500 into it, getting back \$4500 which was collected from Viereck's Nazi employers, the German Library of Information.

Four Legislators Named

Hauck said Viereck had given him this mailing list, which Hickey handed to Mrs. Webber.

"I can identify it," she said. "That is my handwriting—those names: Tinkham, Thorkelson, Nye and Holt." They are men whose speeches had been sent out (by the Dennett committee)."

"Mr. Viereck told us that he had organized the committee. We were talking about the passing of Senator Lundeen (the committee chairman, killed in a plane crash in September, 1940) and Mr. Viereck said he and Mr. Lundeen and Mr. Dennett and Mr. Hill had organized the committee.

"I had seen Mr. Viereck in the offices of the committee in the Bond Building in the summer of 1940, on two or three occasions. I was employed by the committee—to take care of things and address speeches— isolationist speeches. At one time there were seven or eight people employed in the office, addressing franked envelopes. I have seen about 30 mail bags full in the basement at once.

## Compiled Other Lists

"I compiled mailing lists from the fan mail of Representative Sweeney and Senator Johnson (she did not say which Senator Johnson)."

Among other lists Mrs. Webber said the committee used was one from the New York Enquirer, pub-



Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Webber. She is a great-great-granddaughter of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, signer of the Declaration of Independence

lished by William Griffin, who made a trip to Cuba, and later reported himself ill, when the special grand jury on Axis agents wanted to question him.

Defense Counsel Morosini broke into Mrs. Webber's testimony to protest that "this woman is pregnant" and that he could not anticipate her answers in time to object to them.

Morosini said it was unfair of the Government to put "this pregnant woman" on the stand and place him in the position of heckling her with objections. He said he did not wish to do this.

## Questions Her About It

When his turn came to cross-examine Mrs. Webber, almost his first question was, whether she was pregnant.

She said she was. Morosini asked Mrs. Webber whether she had not observed the pictures of about 35 other persons in Viereck's den. The list ranged from Albert Einstein, Thomas Mann and Kaiser Wilhelm—the only ones she remembered for sure—to Theodore Roosevelt, Col. House, George Bernard Shaw and Marshal Foch.

Mrs. Webber said Hitler's picture was the largest. She denied she and Viereck talked about "fake" stories about the committee's work, which could be the basis of libel suits if palmed off on newspapers.

So did her husband, who was the next witness. He confirmed what his wife had said, except that she said they visited Viereck for an hour and he placed it at not more than 45 minutes.

## Hill Is Recalled

With this evidence of Viereck's link to Dennett's committees in the





Post Staff Photo

"I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS ANY LAW AGAINST THAT," said Marie Waters, 20, of 3267 N Street Northwest, about making notes on the trial of George Viereck, then reading them off to Prescott Dennett. Dennett, who was not supposed to know what was going on inside the courtroom, was jailed in \$3500 bond

## Girl Who Took Notes at Trial 'Never Knew..'

Attractive 20-year-old Maria Waters, whose note taking at the Viereck trial was a contributing factor in sending her friend, Prescott Dennett, to jail, last night, said she was just penciling notes on testimony and "didn't know there was any law against that."

Anyhow, the slender girl with tumbling blond hair and a way of acting out every word, exclaimed she didn't give the notes to Dennett, promoter of isolationist committees for George Sylvester Viereck, Nazi prosecutor.

"Pres and I had lunch together twice and soft drinks twice more today and yesterday," she said. "I would look at the notes I had taken in the courtroom and then put them back in my purse and we would discuss the trial. But I didn't give any notes to Pres."

### Dennett's Bond Raised

Dennett was free under \$1500 bond until yesterday. Then the prosecution saw the girl taking notes and charged she was thus communicating to Dennett testimony given while he was out of the room and which he was therefore not supposed to hear. The prosecution, fearing that Dennett would jump his bond when he learned in this manner how the trial was going, asked it be raised to \$3500. Dennett, unable to meet it, was jailed.

Her deep blue eyes flashing alertly, Maria had rushed into her apartment at 3267 N Street Northwest, coming from the trial. After pausing for breath, she related in dramatic word and gesture to her sister and a Post reporter the story of how her note-taking interrupted the trial.

She told them that her mother, Mrs. Agnes Waters, is coming back home soon to testify for the defense in the trial because "she wants to do anything she can to clear" the name of the late Senator Ernest Lundeen. The prosecution charges an arrangement had been made whereby 125,000 copies of a speech by Viereck were to be franked by the Minnesota Farmer-Laborite.

### Mother Now in Midwest

Mrs. Waters is now in the Middle West making speeches before mothers' groups, Maria said. Her mother is 'dissatisfied with the way the war is going,' she explained.

"She doesn't like the idea of sending planes to Britain when we need them so badly ourselves in the Pacific," Maria said. "And she didn't like the idea of sending an expeditionary force to Ireland."

And about Prescott Dennett? "I met Pres when I was working for George Hill," she said. (Hill, former secretary of Representative Hamilton Fish, has been convicted of perjury before the special grand jury on Axis agents).

"Mother had met George through her work as an isolationist and she got the job with him for me. I addressed envelopes. I understood they contained Ernest's (Senator Lundeen's) speeches. Later I worked on Representative Stephen Day's poll of (Illinois isolationist) 'Who's Who.'"

"When I saw in September that Pres had been called before the grand jury I wrote him reminding him that we had met in George Hill's office and that mother said Ernest had spoken highly of him. I offered to do what I could to help."

She didn't do any work for Dennett, Maria said, but "Pres and his mother came over to visit us and we reminisced about Ernest."

The late Senator Lundeen and her mother became friends, she said, when the Senator called to discuss some isolationist letters on the neutrality bill Mrs. Waters had distributed on Capitol Hill.

record, Prosecutor Maloney called Hill back to the stand.

Hill identified a copy of one of the Congressional Record reprints he said he ordered and Dennett paid for and mailed out. The title was "Dangers of Invasion." Maloney pointed out that it was an interview with Hitler and quoted the Nazis' leader's expression:

"America for the Americans—Europe for the Europeans."

Hill then identified the Lundeen speech Hill said he mailed for Viereck, and Maloney quoted:

"Europe for the Europeans—Asia for the Asiatics—America for the Americans."

For nearly an hour, Hill went over the records of the Government Printing Office, indicating item after item. He said he got the manuscripts of many of them from Dennett, caused the material to be placed in the Record by some Representative or Senator, ordered thousands of reprints and paid for them with money he got from Dennett.

### More Than Half Million

Hill said Dennett paid for more than half a million isolationist items Hill ordered last year. Dennett paid about \$3000 to them, Hill said.

Hill declared that three days after he was indicted he resolved to tell the truth, but did not do so until a week ago, having kept stubbornly silent through the trial in which he was sent to prison.

"I was advised not to," Hill explained.

Under cross-examination, Hill maintained that he had not been promised leniency, that not even a hope of leniency had been held out to him.

"The main thing I recall," he said of his first talk with the prosecutors, "was that Mr. Hickey reminded me that I was an American. That worked on my mind and after a couple of days I decided that I would tell the truth."

### Goes Over His Perjuries

Morosini sent for the indictment against Hill and began to read Hill's perjuries before the grand jury, statement by statement.

"Do you remember saying that?" Morosini would snap.

Here are some of Hill's replies:

"I should never have said that."

"I'll never forget it"

"I'm paying for it now."

When Morosini read how the pros-

ecutors warned Hill of his danger, the convicted man retorted, "That's when I ought to have talked."

Morosini indicated at adjournment time that he was far from through with Hill. He will resume at 11 o'clock this morning.

After the jurors left, Prosecutor Maloney asked for a \$15,000 bond for Prescott Dennett, saying he was informed that Dennett was keeping up with the testimony through the information of Miss Maria Waters, 3267 N Street Northwest.

### Took Notes for Him

Miss Waters has been in court each day and has talked to Dennett, to Morosini and to another defense attorney, Daniel F. Cohalen, jr. The defense lawyers have summoned her mother, Mrs. Agnes Waters, as a witness for Viereck.

District Attorney Edward M. Curran told the court he had questioned Miss Waters. With her out of court he examined Dennett, who admitted the girl had met him after court sessions and read him extensive notes on the testimony. Curran then questioned Miss Waters. Her replies did not agree with Dennett's, he said.

Dennett has been free on \$1500 bond to secure his appearance on the witness stand. As his hearing started, his bondsman surrendered him to Justice Letts, saying he would no longer be responsible for him.

The justice committed Dennett, saying he would need \$3500 bail to get out again.

Last night, Dennett was in jail.

Viereck's lawyers asked Justice Letts to "order" the newspapers not to publish accounts of the Dennett incident. The Justice replied gently that he had directed his jurors not to read about the case, but that he would do no more. His power, said the justice, did not include censorship.

Morosini then asserted that the defense counsel had nothing to do with Dennett's maneuvers and demanded an assurance from the Government that no such suspicion was entertained.

"I won't say that, sir," retorted Maloney. "All I know is that the defense subpoenaed Miss Water's mother as a witness."