

Legislators' Talks Were Sent to Viereck, Witness Testifies

Says Speeches of Nye,
Reynolds, Holt and
Tinkham Were Used

By **CARTER BROOKE JONES.**

The Viereck trial was interrupted dramatically this afternoon when Special Prosecutor William Power Maloney asked that the bond under which Prescott Dennett, former director of the Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee, is being held as a Government witness, be increased from \$1,500 to \$15,000.

(Earlier Story on Page A-1.)
By **CARTER BROOKE JONES.**

Joel Frank Webber, former promoter for the Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee, testifying in District Court this afternoon at the trial of George Sylvester Viereck, a registered German agent charged with failing to report all his activities to the State Department, named several members of Congress whose speeches, the witness said, were being franked by the committee in large quantities.

The Government had brought out testimony to the effect that Prescott Dennett, head of the Debts Committee, had been hired to exploit propaganda books which were being published by a New Jersey firm Viereck was subsidizing.

Mr. Webber named as among those whose speeches were franked out Senators Reynolds, Democrat, of North Carolina, and Nye, Republican, of North Dakota, Representatives Tinkham, Republican, of Massachusetts, and Sweeney, Democrat, of Ohio, and two former members of Congress, Senator Holt, Democrat, of West Virginia, and Representative Thorkelson, Democrat, of Montana.

Mailing Bags Full of Speeches.
The witness said several mailing lists to which these and other speeches were being sent were forwarded to Viereck in New York, including one of the German-American Board of Trade.

Regarding the franked speeches, Mr. Webber testified:

"When I went to work for the committee in May, 1940, I noticed a great many mail bags full of the speeches and the desks were loaded with them. There were still a great many when I left."

One mailing list which the committee used, the witness testified, was made up of "fan mail" which Representative Sweeney had received after making a radio speech.

George Hill, until recently assistant secretary of Representative Fish, Republican, of New York, was recalled to the stand later in the afternoon for further questioning by Government counsel.

Hill Got \$100 Tip.

Hill, who is under sentence of from two to six years for perjury and was brought from District Jail, testified this morning that he was introduced to Viereck by Mr. Fish and instructed by him to mail out 125,000 copies of a speech by the late Senator Lundeen of Minnesota, in which Viereck was interested. Hill also said Viereck gave him a "tip" of \$100 at that time and later he had the speech—which, according to the Government, was prepared by Viereck—mailed out under Senator Lundeen's frank.

This afternoon, Hill testified that he ordered a large number of reprints of a speech entitled "England

(See VIERECK, Page 2-X.)

Expects Every American to Do His Duty.

Hill testified that altogether he received \$3,000 from Dennett for mailing out reprints of various congressional speeches.

Asked by Special Prosecutor William Power Maloney when "he decided to tell the truth" the witness said about two days after he was indicted, though he refrained from doing so until about a week ago.

"Advised" Not to Tell Truth.
"You did not tell the truth before or during your trial?" prompted the prosecutor.

"I was advised not to," Hill said. "Never mind that," Mr. Maloney interposed. "You didn't—that's all."

Cross-examined by Defense Attorney Emil Morosini, Hill described being taken to the district attorney's office after his arrest and being questioned by Mr. Maloney and Edward J. Hickey, Jr., also of the Justice Department.

"The main thing I recall," the witness said, "was that Mr. Hickey reminded me I was an American citizen. That worked on my mind and a couple of days later I decided I would tell the truth."

Expected "Leniency."
Under cross-examination, Hill admitted he sent a note from jail to the prosecutors saying he was willing to tell the truth "in return for leniency."

"You filed a plea of not guilty to the perjury charges against you," Mr. Morosini suggested.

Hill conceded he had. "And you took a pauper's oath so you could get the record printed without cost for your appeal?"

"Yes."
"And you intend to appeal?" the defense attorney pressed.

"I do."
"In other words, you do not believe you committed perjury before the grand jury?" (Hill was indicted partly for denying before the grand jury that he knew Viereck.)

"I stand on my constitutional rights," Hill replied, "I refuse to answer on the ground that it may incriminate me."

Mr. Morosini asked that the witness be compelled to answer but Justice F. Dickinson Letts held that he could refuse.

Hill Tells Jury Fish Introduced Him to Viereck

Witness Describes
Work Done for
German Agent

By **CARTER BROOKE JONES.**

Representative Fish's former assistant secretary, George Hill, testified today at the trial of George Sylvester Viereck, registered German agent charged with concealing propaganda activities, that Representative Fish introduced him to Viereck in the summer of 1940.

The New York Republican member and the defendant told him, Hill said, that 125,000 copies of a speech which the late Senator Lundeen, Minnesota Farmer-Laborite, had made were to be sent out on Mr. Fish's mailing list under the Senator's frank.

Hill told the jury and Justice F. Dickinson Letts that Viereck gave him a "tip" of \$100 after their first conversation in the office of Representative Fish.

Hill, under sentence of two to six years for perjury, did not testify at his own trial.

Admits Meeting Viereck.

The perjury indictment was based partly on his testimony before the grand jury that he did not know Viereck. He admitted freely today various contacts with the accused German propagandist.

Tomorrow, Representative Fish is to take the stand as a Government witness.

The Government previously had sought to establish that the Lundeen speech in question, entitled "Six Men and War," was furnished the late Senator by Viereck. Sigfrid Hauck has testified that he saw the speech in manuscript, and it afterward was put out in book form by his publishing company, which was subsidized by Viereck to the extent of \$22,500.

Hill took the stand without apparent nervousness, giving his answers clearly and firmly. He was questioned by William Power Maloney, special assistant to the Attorney General. After the witness had identified himself, the questioning thus proceeded:

Q. Have you ever been convicted of a crime?

A. I have.

Q. What crime?

A. Perjury.

Q. You are under sentence of this court, two to six years?

A. Yes. I am.

Circumstances Recalled.

Q. You formerly were a secretary in the office of Congressman Hamilton Fish?

A. I was.

Q. For how long?

A. For 20 years.

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

A. I do.

Q. Will you tell the court and the jury the circumstances under which you met Mr. Viereck and the date.

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

Q. Tell the circumstances.

A. He came from the private office of Congressman Fish. Mr. Fish brought him in and introduced him to me. Mr. Fish said he wanted me to send out a speech made by Senator Lundeen on the mailing list of the National Committee to Keep America Out of Foreign Wars.

Q. What else was said?

A. Mr. Fish left the room. Mr. Viereck asked me how large the list was, and I told him 100,000. He doubted that it was that large and I attempted to convince him that it was. He asked if there was any other list we could use. I told him we were anxious to use "Who's Who in America," but lacked the money to have it copied.

Q. Did Viereck give you anything on that occasion?

A. Viereck gave me a tip. He gave me two bills, which I rolled up and put in my pocket. I did not look at them at that time, but later I found they were two \$50 bills.

"Six Men and War."

Q. What speech did they have reference to?

A. I think he told me it was "Six Men and War." He told me for all details to contact Senator Lundeen's office. He said they wanted about 125,000 copies mailed out.

Q. Was anything done about "Who's Who in America?"

A. Yes, I got three or four copies from the Library of Congress and put girls to work typing them off.

Q. How was the speech delivered to you?

A. It was sent over to the House Office Building from the Senate Office folding room and stored in the subway of the New House Office Building. The envelopes were sent to me.

Q. How many did you mail out?

A. I put out 125,000.

Q. Who paid for them?

A. Senator Lundeen paid me. He paid me on two occasions, \$125 each time.

Lundeen's Frank Used.

Hill, under further questioning, said he had trouble getting in touch with Senator Lundeen, and that persons who had been employed to get out the speeches wanted their money. The witness said he wrote Viereck, and the defendant replied he was "only the intermediary" and the Senator was to pay for the speeches. A day or so later, Hill recalled, Senator Lundeen paid him.

Q. Under whose frank did those speeches go out?

A. Under Senator Lundeen's frank. Hill testified that on one occasion he gave Viereck a mailing list and received \$125 from the accused propagandist.

The witness said Viereck gave him a list of names of persons who could mail the speeches. But Viereck said more, he said, to the effect that he had seen Mr. Dennett in Representative Fish's office. Leaving the committee headquarters at 1430 Rhode Island avenue N.W., Hill added, he went to a restaurant on Connecticut avenue, where he saw Dennett and Viereck together.

Defense Attorney Objects.
At that point, Defense Attorney Emil Morosini objected to the line of testimony, and Hill was excused until the afternoon session, so that the prosecution could carry out a promise to link his evidence more directly with the case on trial.

Meanwhile, the Government called Mrs. J. Frank Webber, who said she was employed at Mr. Dennett's headquarters. Mrs. Webber said she worked on mailing lists for the War Debts Committee.

She described franked speeches "in great quantities" which found their way to Mr. Dennett's office. At one time, she said, there were 30 mailbags full of these speeches stored at the offices.

Mrs. Webber described a box which she shipped to Viereck at his New York residence. She said it contained some of her personal belongings and certain mailing lists.

Picture of Hitler on Wall.
Mrs. Webber then told of a visit which she and her husband made to Viereck at his New York apartment. When they entered the place, she said, they noticed a large picture of Hitler on the wall.

Mrs. Webber was still on the witness stand when the luncheon recess was taken.

Before calling Hill, the Government put on Ralph L. Harris, Congressional Record clerk, who identified records which, he said, showed that the speech, "Six Men and War," was ordered reprinted by Senator Lundeen in large quantities. The Senator, Mr. Harris testified, paid for the extra printing by the Government Printing Office. The wit-