

# Viereck, Master Nazi Agent, Comes to Trial Here Today

By Dillard Stokes Post 2/16/42  
Post Staff Writer

George Sylvester Viereck, master German agent in two World Wars who was never called to an accounting in last conflict, will face a jury today for his activities in this war.

He comes to trial before Justice F. Dickerson Letts in the District Court on three charges of violating the Foreign Agents Act by hiding his use of Congressmen and their franks for his Nazi propaganda machine.

Special Prosecutors William Power Maloney and Edward J. Hickey, jr., plan an exposure of the scope and power of the Viereck organization which will take at least a week and may take two.

Should Viereck be convicted, he will be liable to \$3000 fine or 2 to 6 years in prison, or both.

**Came To U. S. at 11**

Born in Munich in 1884, Viereck came to America when he was 11 years old and claims United States citizenship through the naturalization of his father, Louis Viereck.

Shrewd and scholarly, polished and plausible, Viereck in recent months has violently protested his loyalty to America on the one hand and blandly admitted his high pay for serving Germany on the other.

In World War I, Viereck set up a publication called *The Fatherland*, saying he wanted to place "the German side of the unhappy quarrel" before the American people. The *Fatherland* was passionately pro-German and savagely anti-British.

When America went to war in 1917, *The Fatherland* went out of business. Its founder then set up Viereck's *American Weekly*, with the masthead motto "America First and America Only," and continued his activity, pleading for "sympathetic understanding" of the German people.

By the end of 1918, intelligence officers of the Department of Justice were armed with evidence that Germany had been financing Viereck. But the war ended and nothing was done.

After Hitler came to power in 1933 and the Reich began to spend money on propaganda, Viereck became active once more. He sent out a letter in which the Crown Prince defended Hitler, and denied the voices of the Nazi regime. And he became a prolific writer of letters to editors, who he assured that Hitler was a democratically chosen leader and

that the Treaty of Versailles was a monstrous injustice.

## Promoted Anti-British Book

With the passage of the Foreign Agent Act he registered with the State Department as the agent of the *Munchner Nueste Nachrichten*, a newspaper, and its editor, Dr. Giselher Wirsing, who wrote the anti-British book, "100 Families that Rule the Empire."

Viereck had \$10,000 to promote the sale of this book, which was issued by Flanders Hall, Inc., a publishing company set up, financed and dominated by Viereck. It folded up a few months ago, as "*The Fatherland*" folded up nearly 30 years ago.

Later Viereck registered as an agent of the German Library of Information, an official propaganda agency.

But the special grand jury on Axis agents charged in its indictment that there were some things that Viereck did not disclose.

One was that he helped Prescott Dennett set up the isolationist groups called "Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee," "Islands for War Debts Committee," and "War Debts Defense Committee." Once head of these groups was the late Senator Ernst Lundeen (Farmer-Labor), of Minnesota, whose secretary recently testified that Viereck wrote two speeches Lundeen delivered on the floor of the Senate.

## Hill Got Them Printed

The indictment charges that Viereck wrote speeches and other material for "present and former members of both Houses of the Congress of the United States."

Through George Hill, aide of Representative Fish (Republican), of New York, who got them printed at the Government Printing Office and Dennett who mailed them, Viereck is alleged to have gotten this propaganda distributed postage free, under Congressional frank. Hill was convicted of perjury in connection with the grand jury investigation.

Dennett is under a \$1500 bond for his appearance on the witness stand against Viereck.

The German agent will be defended by Attorneys Emil Morosini, jr., and Daniel F. Cohalen, jr., who also appeared for the German news service *Transocean* when it was convicted of violating the registration act last summer.