

Griffin Is Defended At Conspiracy Hearing By Virginia Pastor

Hot Springs Priest Says
New York Publisher Is
Like George Washington

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Nov. 19.—A self-described descendant of the Nation's first President yesterday described William Griffin, charged with conspiracy to undermine the morale of the armed forces, as "a man like George Washington—he couldn't tell a lie."

The witness, the Rev. Richard Blackburn Washington, pastor of the Roman Catholic Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Hot Springs, Va., testified for the publisher of the New York Enquirer at proceedings in which the Government seeks to remove Mr. Griffin to Washington for trial on the conspiracy indictment.

The priest identified himself as a great-grandnephew of Washington and said his father was born at Mount Vernon, Va., Washington's ancestral home. He said he had known Mr. Griffin for about 15 years and that "his reputation is 100 per cent as to citizenship and the highest for patriotism."

Also appearing in Mr. Griffin's behalf, former Magistrate Benjamin E. Greenspan, said that it was he who was responsible for Mr. Griffin's meeting with George Sylvester Viereck, convicted Nazi agent. Mr. Greenspan said he therefore felt "responsible" for Mr. Griffin's "predicament."

Mr. Greenspan testified that he persuaded Mr. Griffin to go to Viereck in an effort to induce Hitler, through Viereck, to alleviate the plight of German Jews.

Mr. Greenspan, president of the Wall Street Synagogue since he founded it 13 years ago, called Mr. Griffin "one of the greatest friends the Jewish people ever had."

United States Commissioner Garrett W. Cotter, before whom the removal proceedings have been held, gave both sides two weeks to file

briefs, after which he will decide whether Mr. Griffin must go to Washington to face trial.