



The Hour

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100 E. 42nd St., New York
MURRAY HILL 5-0688-9

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Editor

Albert E. Kahn

Editorial Consultants

Prof. F. L. Schuman

Johannes Steel

Leland Stowe

Hendrik van Loon

Wythe Williams

Number 140

August 8, 1942

U. S. GOVERNMENT MOVES AGAINST DR. FERDINAND A. KERTESS

Treasury Department Seizes Property of
Chemical Marketing Co.

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In the article on Dr. Kertess which we published on July 25, we stated:

"The Hour is informed that shortly before Nazi Germany declared war on the United States, I. G. Farben -- whose directors play a leading role in shaping the policies of the Third Reich -- transferred a number of patents in North and South America to Dr. Kertess' Chemical Marketing Company."

We also revealed that Dr. Kertess, who still maintains comfortable living quarters at Briarcliff Manor on Scarsborough Road in Westchester County, N.Y., had for some time served as a key representative in the United States for Deutsche Gold- und Silber-Scheideanstalt (German Gold and Silver Refining Institute) at Frankfort on Main, Germany; that Dr. Kertess, a German by birth who became an American citizen in 1940, was one of the chief supporters of the activities of Dr. Friedrich Auhagen, the Nazi agent who was sentenced on March 13 to two to six years imprisonment; and that, according to information secured by Congressional investigators, Dr. Kertess late in 1940 was providing the German Naval Attaché in Washington, D. C., with reports concerning "convoy movements and shipping movements of British and French purchases in this country."

Further Action Against Kertess Necessary

We concluded our article on Dr. Kertess with the statement: "The Hour urges that the FBI and the Foreign Funds Control Division of the United States Treasury Department conduct an immediate investigation of Dr. Kertess' current activities and of his connection with I. G. Farbenindustrie."

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The Treasury Department has already acted against Dr. Kertess by seizing the property of his Chemical Marketing Company, which was serving as a front for Nazi business interests. Dr. Kertess himself, however, is still free. In view of his previous record, it seems that further action should be taken against Dr. Kertess himself.

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THE RECORD OF CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON FISH

Among that small clique of fascist-minded congressmen who hampered U. S. defense preparations before Pearl Harbor and have since obstructed the war effort, none has been more useful to Berlin, Rome and Tokyo than Representative Hamilton Fish, now running for re-election from the 26th Congressional District of New York.

Since the day Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany, Congressman Fish has played a key role in the spreading of Nazi propaganda in the United States. Probably the earliest instance of Hamilton Fish's cooperation with the Propaganda Ministry of the Third Reich was his endorsement of an official Nazi propaganda book entitled Communism in Germany which was published in Germany in 1933 and sent into the United States for distribution. The book, which purported to show how the Nazis had saved Germany from the Bolsheviki menace, featured Hamilton Fish's name as an American "sponsor." The book also featured an introductory quotation from Adolf Hitler.

Fish and Japan

Even before his endorsement of the Nazi propaganda book, Communism in Germany, Congressman Fish had publicly expressed his sympathetic interest in the Japanese cause. On February 25, 1932, he warned members of the House of Representatives not to apply any economic boycotts against Japan. He asserted that such action would mean the "first step toward war," and he went on to say, "If the United States had not sent a note to Japan every time a little town in Manchuria was seized, we could now use our good offices toward a settlement in the interest of peace."

Exactly a year later, on February 25, 1933, Fish strongly objected to the recognition of the Soviet Union by the United States Government. He voiced the fear that such recognition might offend Tokyo: "The American people do not want war with Japan and are opposed to going out of our way to antagonize Japan by recognizing the Soviet Union. He added, "The sooner we stop trying to police Manchuria ... the better for the peace of the world."

Congressman Fish's friendly concern for Japanese interests never seemed to lag. In 1937 he was still urging the United States Government to give in to Japan on every major issue. In July of that year he demanded that the United States withdraw all her troops and gunboats from China.

In 1939, Fish voted against the Naval Expansion Bill and against the fortification of Guam, on the grounds that these measures might prove offensive to Japan.

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The Congressional Record of October 1, 1940, included this comment by Representative Fish:

"No one in Japan really wants war with the United States, but it is evident that this highly proud and militarist nation has gotten tired of being threatened and slapped in the face by us."

Fish and the Third Reich

On October 31, 1940, Representative James P. McGranery of Pennsylvania incorporated in the Congressional Record a letter he had received from Michael A. Maloney, a prominent lawyer in Philadelphia, recommending that the House of Representatives "investigate a rental of the property, 55 East 77th Street, to Johannes Borchers, consul general of Germany." The property in question belonged to Representative Hamilton Fish. Mr. Maloney's letter to Representative McGranery included this quotation from a Philadelphia newspaper:

"Fish is reported to have begun renting the house to Germans about 1931, shortly before Hitler came to power, and renewed, reportedly with an increased rent. Two years ago, 1938, he is reported to have renewed the lease once again, this time with a substantial increase from the Nazis."

Whatever Fish's financial dealings with the Nazis may have been, he was on the friendliest of terms with George Sylvester Viereck, who on March 13, 1942, was sentenced to a prison term of two to six years for concealing certain information when he registered as an agent of the Third Reich. On November 26, 1937, Viereck wrote to the editor of Liberty magazine, suggesting an article on the need for a "war referendum." Viereck said that his collaborator on this article would be Representative Hamilton Fish, who -- wrote the Nazi agent -- would "be very glad to write an article with me on the necessity of a war referendum." Viereck explained that he had already discussed the matter at length with Fish.

Early in 1939, when the Nazis were intensifying their "peace" drive in the United States, Hamilton Fish founded and became Chairman of the National Committee to Keep America Out of Foreign Wars. (On July 23, 1942, the U. S. Department of Justice made public an indictment which named the National Committee to Keep America Out of Foreign Wars as one of a number of organizations which had been used to sabotage morale in the United States armed forces.) In the summer of 1939 Congressman Fish traveled to Europe. He was the guest of Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop at the latter's Fuschl Castle near Salzburg, Austria. While in Salzburg, Fish also conferred with Italian Foreign Minister Count Galeazzo Ciano. Shortly after these conferences von Ribbentrop placed an airplane at the disposal of Representative Fish, who undertook a hasty trip to Oslo, Norway. There he addressed the delegates of the Interparliamentary Union Congress, telling them that the European nations should pay heed to Germany's "peace" offers. Later, Fish told American correspondents, "Germany's claims are just."

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When Nazi Germany published its White Paper in 1939, accusing the United States of making secret war alliances with Poland and France, Representative Fish publicly declared, "I cannot conceive of the German Foreign Office fabricating or forging documents."

Fish, Auhagen and Viereck

In June, 1939, the Nazi agent Dr. Friedrich Auhagen published the first issue of a magazine called Today's Challenge. The issue contained an article by Hamilton Fish, entitled "Our International-Minded Press," in which the Congressman wrote: "If we enter another World War we will have a dictatorship of our own within twenty-four hours, and lose our free institutions..."

The Assistant Editor of Today's Challenge was George Sylvester Viereck, who at the time was supervising some of Germany's most important propaganda activities in the United States. One of Viereck's chief projects was a propaganda apparatus which he established in Washington in 1940 for the purpose of inserting "isolationist" (pro-Axis) propaganda into the Congressional Record. This Viereck propaganda apparatus, had its headquarters in the office of Representative Hamilton Fish. George Hill, Fish's clerk, arranged to place Viereck's material in the Congressional Record and then purchased tens of thousands of reprints of this material for nation-wide distribution in congressional franked envelopes. George Hill was subsequently sentenced by a Federal Court to serve two to six years in prison for having perjured himself before the Washington Federal Grand Jury investigating Axis propaganda activities.

Just before the sentence was passed, Hill turned to his lawyer, former Representative John O'Connor, whose services had been secured by Hamilton Fish, and asked in broken tones: "Didn't you fellows make a proposition to these other fellows?" O'Connor did not reply.

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NEW CHARGES

The latest issue of the Reporter of Direct Mail Advertising, a magazine which has done an outstanding job in exposing the machinations of Representative Hamilton Fish, contains a photograph of the front page of an issue of Voelkischer Beobachter, Adolf Hitler's own newspaper. This front page features a picture of Representative Hamilton Fish, whose activities are extolled in Hitler's paper.

The August 6 issue of the Washington Post revealed in an article by Dillard Stokes that Representative Fish received in 1939 a "secret and hidden fee of \$25,000" from General Rafael L. Trujillo of the Dominican Republic. Fish failed to list receipt of the money in his 1939 income tax report.

Every day brings new revelations concerning the devious anti-democratic and pro-fascist activities of Representative Hamilton Fish, whose record is one of representing the Axis rather than the people of the United States.