

G-Man Priest Fails Axis Spies

T-4 7/31/42
Role Revealed at

Lutheran Cleric Trial

HARTFORD, Conn., July 30 (U. P.).—The Government disclosed today it had a counter-espionage agent working hand in hand with five alleged spies for Germany and Japan, four of whom have pleaded guilty.

The disclosure came in the trial of the Rev. Kurt E. B. Molzahn, Philadelphia Lutheran minister, who was accused of aiding Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, chief of the German-American Bund, in leaving the country with vital military information for the Axis.

The counter-espionage agent was the Rev. Aleksy Pelypenko, a Catholic priest, who was called as the Government's star witness.

Speaking only in Russian, which was translated by an interpreter, Father Pelypenko testified that he joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1941.

Pelypenko, speaking slowly, said he attended a meeting at the Hotel Bismarck, Chicago, in July 1941, at which Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, chief of the German-American Bund; Count Anastase Vonsiatsky, and Dr. Otto Willumeit, Chicago bund leader, all of whom have pleaded guilty in this case to charges of spying for Germany and Japan, were present.

Another defendant, Dr. Wolfgang Ebell, El Paso, Tex., also pleaded guilty.