

THE PERJURY TRIAL OF GEORGE HILL
Secretary to Rep. Hamilton Fish

Bulletin 1 - January 7 - 8, 1942.

NOTICE: TO PAPERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The NFCL is providing this coverage of the trial of George Hill for the benefit of organizations which might not otherwise be able to secure detailed material on the trial. All material contained herein is offered without restriction and quotation or publication is cordially invited. Similar coverage of the trial of George Sylvester Viereck will be made available if you indicate its desirability. We suggest you file these Bulletins. There will be a summary and index. Watch for names known in your locality.

CASE: United States of America v. George Hill
CHARGE: Perjury before the Federal Grand Jury of the District of Columbia
IN: The District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia.
BEFORE: Justice F. Dickinson Letts, Federal District Court for the District of Columbia.
ATTORNEYS FOR THE GOVERNMENT: William Power Maloney and Edward J. Hickey, Special Assistants to the Attorney General of the United States, assisted by Bernard Margolius, Assistant United States Attorney.
ATTORNEYS FOR THE DEFENSE: John F. O'Connor, William F. Cusick

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY
January 7 - 8, 1942

1. The defendant, George Hill, during a period of less than nine months in 1940-41 purchased from the Government Printing Office more than 500,000 copies of reprints of material appearing in the Congressional Record, for most of which he also secured franking envelopes by which the reprints could be mailed without charge. PAGE 8
2. The reprints purchased by Hill, low-paid secretary of Rep. Hamilton Fish (R., N.Y.), included material inserted into the Record by Senator D. Worth Clark (D., Idaho), Senator Gerald P. Nye (R., N.D.), Senator Robert R. Reynolds (D., N.C.), Senator C. Wayland Brooks (R., Ill.), Rep. William G. Stratton (R., Ill.), Senator Robert LaFollette (Prog., Wisc.), Rep. John Rankin (D., Miss.) PAGE 8-9
3. The defendant George Hill, contrary to his statement before the Grand Jury, is acquainted with arch-German propagandist George Sylvester Viereck. This was revealed in testimony of officials of the Grand Jury who stated under oath that Viereck had admitted this acquaintance when he testified before the Grand Jury, prior to Hill's appearance. .PAGE 5

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The web of subversive and fascist organizations inspired, directed, and financed by German propagandist George Sylvester Viereck was partially exposed this week by the United States Government as it opened its case in the Federal District Court against George Hill, under indictment for perjury before the Federal Grand Jury for the District of Columbia.

BACKGROUND: THE HILL CASE

George Hill, secretary to Congressman Hamilton Fish, Republican from New York, was indicted by a federal Grand Jury sitting in the District of Columbia on October 24, 1941, on a charge of perjury before that body. The Jury has been engaged in investigating Nazi propaganda activities from July 2, 1941 to the present time.

The indictment against Hill charges that he "did unlawfully, feloniously, and willfully" perjure himself when testifying concerning the removal of certain mail sacks containing reprints from the Congressional Record, franked envelopes, and other material, from the residence of Prescott Dennett, 1430 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., and the storage of certain sacks in Storage Space 30, on the sixth floor of the New House Office Bldg.

The indictment further charges that George Hill perjured himself when he testified that he did not know and had had no conversations with or referring to, and no dealings whatever with George Sylvester Viereck, also indicted by the same Grand Jury.

The Government's case, presented by William Power Maloney and Edward J. Hickey, Special Assistants to the Attorney General, is predicated on testimony given to the Grand Jury by George Sylvester Viereck in which Viereck stated that he did know Hill, and on testimony of employees of the House Office Bldg., that contrary to his statement, Hill did give directions concerning the disposition of the now famous mail bags.

LEADING PERSONNEL OF THE CASE

The case for the government was opened by Special Assistant to the Attorney General, William Power Maloney with a description of the major personnel of the trial. These include:

1) George Hill, the defendant, a long time clerical employee of Rep. Hamilton Fish;

2) George Sylvester Viereck "notorious as a German propagandist, dating back to the last war". Viereck was described by Maloney as having received \$67,000 from the German Government in less than a year and a half, ostensibly for work to be done by him, but actually "to be used by him in paying others whom he was employing to carry on propaganda work".

3) Prescott Dennett, "an unsavory purveyor of half-truths, running a small, and shall I say, disreputable news agency here in Washington as a guise to cover up his activities on behalf of Viereck". Dennett was also described as the leading factotum of a number of organizations "alleged to be 100% pro-American" but actually "subversive and working under the direction of George Sylvester Viereck". Dennett is known as the organizer of the Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee, the Islands for War Debts Committee, and the War Debts Defense Committee. Dennett served as treasurer and general factotum for the three committees, of two of which the late Senator Ernest Lundeen (Farmer-Labor, Minn.) was chairman. The Government charges that the purpose of these committees was to "spread propoganda at the behest and direction of George Sylvester Viereck" who admits financing much of their activities and is the "guiding genius" behind them.

4) The late Senator Ernest Lundeen. Stating his regret at being forced to bring the name of a dead man into proceedings such as these, Maloney pointed out that he could not change the facts. Lundeen was described as having as his "confidante and political adviser" the "arch-propagandis Viereck". The Government charges and will prove that Viereck prepared speeches which were delivered on the floor of the Senate by Lundeen, printed in the Congressional Record as part of the proceedings, reprinted and distributed by the defendant George Hill, under the direction of Lundeen and Viereck, through the use of Lundeen's franking privilege.

OPENING OF TRIAL

The selection of the jury in this case, the first of three scheduled in the District Court involving activities instigated by Viereck and other German agents, occupied the first morning session.

The action of Government Attorney Maloney during the selection of the jury is deemed highly significant. In questioning the members of the jury panel, Mr. Maloney specifically asked whether members of the panel or members of their immediate family had been members of or contributors to: America First Committee, Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee, Islands for War Debts Committee, War Debts Defense Committee, American Fellowship Forum, Keep America Out of Foreign Wars Committee, German American Bund, Steuben Society, Friends of New Germany, National Union for Social Justice "commonly associated with the Rev. Father Coughlin", National Committee of One Million, Ku Klux Klan, Silver Shirts, "or any other color shirt". All of the jurors answered in the negative.

Special Assistant to the Attorney General Maloney further asked if any of the jurors or their families subscribed to, purchased or read the following: Scribners Commentator, The Herald (a newspaper formerly published in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin), Social Justice, New York Enquirer, In Fact, Today's Challenge (published

by the American Fellowship Forum), Facts in Review (published by the German Library of Information of which George Sylvester Viereck was "editor and guiding genius"), or the publications of Flanders Hall, Inc., of Scotch Plains, N.J.

Over the objection of Hill's counsel, ex-Representative John O'Connor of New York, to the list of organizations and publications, Mr. Maloney pointed out that the court "would hear more of these as the trial progresses".

O'Connor in interrogating the jury panel attempted to establish that none of the jurors was prejudiced against the America First Committee prior to the outbreak of the war, stating that there was "lots of antagonism in some sources to such committees" as the America First Committee, the Keep America Out of Foreign Wars Committee, or the committee to make the British Empire pay its war debts.

The jury finally selected consists of 12 men, the two women on the original panel having been challenged. At the Court's suggestion that the case was likely to be protracted in length, two alternates were impaneled.

FIRST DAY TESTIMONY - JANUARY 7, 1942.

One of the chief avenues for the dissemination of propaganda used by Viereck and which became known to the Government was the publishing firm of Flanders Hall, to which Viereck gave \$22,000 in one year for the publication of such books as: Misadventure in Scandinavia, Doublecross in Palestine, Lord Lothian vs. Lord Lothian, The Hapless Boers, and other works which the Government charges are in many cases direct word for word "translations of books published in Germany by the German Information Bureau". Government Attorney Maloney stated that the Grand Jury had received records covering the financial affairs of Flanders Hall, Viereck's financial contribution to this firm, and his control of its policy.

Of these books, one of the most interesting is Lord Lothian vs. Lord Lothian, a compilation of the works of the late Ambassador of Great Britain to the United States. This was originally written by Viereck, according to the Government, and delivered as a speech by Senator Lundeen on the floor of the Senate. It later appeared in book form as a publication of Flanders Hall with an author's introduction signed "James Burr Hamilton". Mrs. Henry Grattan Doyle, Secretary of the Grand Jury and President of the Board of Education of the District of Columbia testified during the first day of the trial that Viereck had admitted before the Grand Jury that this was one of his many pen names. The publicity man for Flanders Hall in Washington was none other than the "shady purveyor of half-truths", Prescott Dennett.

As a result of information received about Dennett's activities, the Grand Jury on September 19, 1941 subpoenaed Dennett to appear before them later on the same day.

A few minutes after Dennett had been subpoenaed, he telephoned the defendant, George Hill. Hill then rushed to the mail room in the House Office Bldg. and instructed the attendant immediately to send a truck to the apartment of Prescott Dennett at 1430 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Washington DC, "for a pickup".

The truck was sent and the driver of the truck found not one or two pieces of mail or packages, but rather 20 mail sacks, filled with propaganda material in the franked envelopes of various members of Congress, including Lundeen. (Lundeen at this time, had been dead a little more than a year.)

Dennett told the driver of the House Office Bldg. truck that the 20 bags were addressed and that the driver was to deliver them. Twelve of the bags were addressed to the America First Committee in Washington, and 8 to George Hill at the House Office Bldg. The 12 bags were delivered to the America First Committee and the remaining 8 were taken to the House Office Bldg. where they were later placed on a hand truck. Shortly thereafter, Hill came down and looked at the bags instructing the attendant of the House Office Bldg., to take them to the store room assigned to Congressman Fish on the sixth floor. Hill specifically stated to the attendants that under no circumstances were the bags to go to Fish's office but instead were to go to the store room. Through an error the sacks were delivered to the office. Hill raised a rumpus and the sacks were then taken to the store room.

(Eight sacks which had been recovered from the House Office Bldg., storage space assigned to Rep. Fish, and the 10 sacks recovered from the America First Committee were dragged into the court room during the first day's session, although they have not as yet been formally placed in evidence. Two sacks were never recovered from the office of the America First Committee.)

Employees of the House Office Bldg. will appear later in the case, according to Special Assistant Maloney, and will testify to Hill's activities in connection with the disposition of the mail bags, activities which he denied in his allegedly perjurious testimony before the Grand Jury.

At the time of Hill's appearance before the Grand Jury, the Jury knew that Hill had repeatedly worked with George Sylvester Viereck and Senator Lundeen, franking propaganda material. The penalties for perjury were pointed out to Hill but Hill still denied that he knew Viereck or had ever talked to him or had talked to him, or had talked to him over the telephone, or that he knew him under any other name. He further denied that he had ever called Senator Lundeen's office

asking for Viereck, that he had ever received a telephone call from any employee in Lundeen's office referring to Viereck, that he had ever had any conversations with him, or at any time had received money either directly or indirectly from either Viereck or any person acting for or under the direction of Viereck.

Nevertheless, the Government through Mr. Maloney alleges and will prove that Viereck knew Hill. Mrs. Doyle testified that Viereck told the Grand Jury that he knew Hill but that he refused to testify to the extent of their relationship on the grounds that by so doing he might incriminate himself. This is the specific charge in Count Two of the indictment under which Hill is on trial.

The government states that it will also produce stenographers formerly employed by Senator Lundeen who will relate discussions with Hill concerning the material in franked envelopes, and will testify that speeches written by Viereck were delivered on the floor of the Senate by Lundeen.

Hill's denials will be challenged in the light of the government's claim that in a period of nine months Hill ordered and later franked out a half million copies of propaganda material printed by the Government Printing Office, and that these activities on the part of Hill were "no small single occurrence" but instead, part of a vast network. The Government will also show that Hill who received a salary of only \$2000 a year, paid out \$3000 in 9 months for these reprints.

Among the witnesses appearing the first day were: Harry M. Hull, Deputy Clerk in the criminal office of the District Court for the District of Columbia, who testified that there had actually been a Grand Jury, after counsel for the defendant refused to allow the customary stipulation to that effect; J. Wesley Adams, Jr., of the Division of Foreign Activity Correlation of the State Department who testified concerning, and introduced in evidence, a copy of George Sylvester Viereck's registration as a foreign agent; and Mrs. Henry Grattan Doyle, President of the Board of Education of the District of Columbia, Secretary of the Grand Jury.

Viereck's registration as a foreign agent (Government Exhibit 3) states that he is a representative of the Munchner Neueste Nachrichten (a newspaper), the German Library of Information (closed in the summer of 1941 by the President), Dr. Gisehler Wirsing, editor-in-chief of the aforementioned newspaper, and Verlag Knorr and Hirth, publishers of Munich. (In this connection it is to be noted that Viereck was indicted by the Grand Jury of the District of Columbia on October 7, 1941, on charge of "unlawfully, willfully, feloniously, and knowingly" having omitted material facts from his original and supplemental registration filed under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938.)

(Viereck was present in the courtroom during the opening session as was his attorney, Daniel F. Cohalan Jr., who took copious notes. Cohalan is a member of the firm of Cohalan and Morosini, of New York, attorneys for Trans-Ocean News Service, former Nazi propaganda news service.)

One of Viereck's propaganda products, The Hapless Boers, was repeatedly referred to by Government Attorney Maloney during the opening day. The book is a publication of Flanders Hall and is dedicated "To Col. Fritz Duquesne, undaunted warrior, and avenger of his stricken Motherland". This is the same Duquesne who was convicted recently in the Federal District Court in New York of being a German Spy.

SECOND DAY - JANUARY 8, 1942.

Mrs. Henry Grattan Doyle, Secretary of the Grand Jury which indicted George Hill, was cross examined by John O'Connor, chief counsel for the defense.

During the course of the cross-examination, O'Connor requested that the 18 mail bags brought into the court room yesterday, but not officially identified and entered as evidence, be brought in again. This was done. O'Connor then drew an envelope from one of the bags at random. It bore the frank of Senator Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota. The envelope was printed by the Government Printing Office and contained a reprint of a speech made in the Senate by Nye on April 25, 1939, entitled "Propaganda in the Next War".

Another envelope withdrawn by O'Connor bore the frank of Senator D. Worth Clark of Idaho. The envelope contained a reprint of Extension of the Remarks of Senator D. Worth Clark on March 24, 1941, and Extension of the Remarks of Senator Robert Reynolds of North Carolina, on March 8, 1941. (Members of Congress are entitled to "extend their remarks" or actual speeches made on the floor of Congress by placing material in the Appendix of the Congressional Record. This material, unless extraordinarily long, may be placed in the Appendix without any outside authority. Members often use this device to reprint their own speeches or other speeches, editorials, articles, etc.)

The material inserted by Clark was an article published in 1937 by Quincy Howe, entitled "England Expects Every American to Do His Duty", and material inserted by Reynolds was entitled "Past Statements of Winston Churchill", reprinted from the New York Enquirer, a Sunday paper published in New York City.

During redirect examination, Government Counsel Maloney asked Mrs. Doyle to identify additional franked envelopes which had been taken from the mail bags while they were in the Grand Jury room and given at that time to members of the Grand Jury for examination. Mrs. Doyle thus identified a post card bearing the frank of Rep. William G. Stratton of Illinois, containing an ad for "Roosevelt Tours, Inc.", reprinted from the American Guardian of May 2, 1941. This was introduced as Government Exhibit 7.

At this time, in the presence of the Court, Government Counsel Maloney opened the envelopes containing the Clark and Reynolds insertions and revealed

that in addition to the two aforementioned statements, the envelope contained a letter, on the letterhead of the United States Senate, addressed "Dear Friend" and signed by Senator D. Worth Clark.

Government Exhibit 8, identified by Mrs. Doyle, is a reprint of an insertion made in the Congressional Record by Senator Gerald P. Nye, entitled, "The Late Senator Lundeen and the Islands for War Debts Committee", on November 4, 1940. This consists of two editorials, one from The Gaelic American by J. Frank Weber, described by Maloney as an associate of Prescott Dennett, Washington representative for German propagandist Viereck; and the other from the September 1940 issue of The Steuben News, published by the Steuben Society. This excerpt from the Steuben News was entitled "FM's Plot to Crucify Col. Lindbergh".

Special Assistant to the Attorney General Maloney pointed out that "Propaganda material was inserted into the Congressional Record and was being handled by the defendant Hill," and that the Government would show that this exhibit came from the mail sacks taken from the apartment of Prescott Dennett and stored in the House Office Bldg. under the direction of the defendant.

Second Government witness to appear on the second day was John Stacy Gorrell, a telephone company engineer, foreman of the Grand Jury which indicted Hill. Gorrell's testimony substantiated the opening statement of the Government and the testimony of Mrs. Doyle concerning Viereck's connections with the defendant George Hill and with the dummy publishers, Flanders Hall.

Gorrell further testified that the Grand Jury had received information that Viereck controlled the activities of Flanders Hall, and that Gorrell, as a member of the Grand Jury, had seen a copy of the document of contract between the nominal publishers of Flanders Hall and Viereck, providing that material to be published by the firm would have to be approved by Viereck, and further indicating that ultimate control and ownership would rest with Viereck in return for money ^{he} had loaned to the firm. He further corroborated Mrs. Doyle's testimony regarding Lord Lothian vs. Lord Lothian.

The Grand Jury also received evidence, according to Gorrell, that Prescott Dennett acted as the agent for Flanders Hall in Washington, that Dennett had relations with the late Senator Lundeen, ex-Senator Rush Holt of West Virginia, George Sylvester Viereck, and others. Gorrell recounted testimony of Prescott Dennett before the Grand Jury in which Dennett stated that he received and distributed Congressional reprints of speeches and extensions of remarks; that he received contributions and disbursed funds for the Islands for War Debts Committee, the Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee and the War Debt Defense Committee; and that he had had correspondence with and telephone conver-

versations with the America First Committee and helped them distribute speeches, etc.

Gorrell also testified that Dennett had said he received large anonymous contributions for his work in the form of cash enclosed in hotel envelopes, and substantiated much of the testimony given previously by Mrs. Doyle concerning the removal of sacks from Dennett's office to the America First Committee and to the House Office Bldg.

Gorrell further testified that Mr. Boland, a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation had appeared before the Grand Jury presenting charts and material indicating the extent of Hill's purchases of reprints of material from the Congressional Record (Boland is scheduled to appear as a Government witness on January 12, 1942.) The Government has charged and will prove that Hill's purchases totalled 500,000 pieces in less than a year.

Gorrell confined himself to identifying those records of reprint orders with which he was familiar as a result of evidence presented to the Grand Jury. These purchases included 85,000 reprints of the aforementioned "England Expects Every American to Do His Duty"; 25,000 copies, for which he paid \$122.45 in cash, were ordered on March 31, 1941, and the balance, for which Hill paid \$251.05, on April 29, 1941. In the case of both these purchases, the frank of Senator D. Worth Clark was used, permission for use having been obtained from his secretary, a Miss Shanks.

(It is obvious, incidentally, that not only do such reprints have prestige value because they are printed under the masthead of the Congressional Record, but that they are obtainable at prices far below that available at commercial printers, and that they can be mailed without charge.)

At different dates, Hill also ordered the following reprints: 66,000 copies of "Congress Must Keep Faith with the Selectees", for which he paid \$213.84 by personal check; 30,000 copies each of two other speeches sent out in the franked envelopes of Senator LaFollette, for which Hill paid \$61.00 by check; 25,000 copies of a speech "Aid to England" by Herbert Hoover, inserted into the Congressional Record by Congressman John Rankin of Mississippi, for which Hill paid \$47.55 by personal check; 25,000 copies of a speech by Gerald P. Nye "No Further Without War"; and 25,000 copies of a reprint containing a speech by Senator LaFollette called "The March to War" and a speech by Senator R. Wayland Brooks of Illinois on "Three Steps to War".

As the fifth witness in the course of the second day's hearing, the Government presented Lawrence LaCharity, one of the stenographers who took the transcript of the proceedings of the Grand Jury, who testified to the accuracy

of a large section of the transcript contained in the indictment of Hill. In cross examination at the insistence of John F. O'Connor, counsel for the defendant, he read certain sections of Hill's testimony not contained in the indictment and hence not previously made public.

Few of these additional excerpts added anything to the story previously outlined by the Government. They did reveal, however, that Congressman Fish had not one but three store rooms, two in the Old House Office Bldg. and one in the New House Office Bldg., that keys to these rooms were held by Fish's secretary, the defendant Hill, and by his senior secretary, Walter Reynolds, and that Hill admitted having a conversation with Prescott Dennett concerning the removal to Fish's office of surplus reprints of Fish's speeches, for which Dennett had no use.

When Hill testified before the Grand Jury, the transcript reveals, he stated that Dennett had suggested that he, Dennett, mail the surplus reprints back to Congressman Fish's office under a frank, but that Hill had said that that would be illegal, and had offered to send a House Office Bldg. truck for them. Hill, during this testimony said that it was two or three days after this phone call from Dennett that he ordered the truck to go to Dennett's office. It is this testimony which is the basis of the first count in the perjury indictment against Hill.

As a humorous sidelight to the afternoon examination came a quotation from the transcript of the statement of Hill's in which he said "we were awfully free with the Congressman's speeches". This was brought out in additional testimony of Hill which the court reporter read, stating that Congressman Fish's office gave speeches to anyone who asked for them, that most copies of the speeches were given with franked envelopes, and that this practice had gone on for the 20 years Fish had been in Congress during which time he had made " a lot of speeches".

Actually however, it was obvious that Hill concerned himself primarily with reprinting the speeches of Congressmen other than his employer. Testimony already given by Government witnesses shows that Hill reprinted 311,000 copies of speeches and extensions of remarks in the Congressional Record, none of which bore the name of his employer.

Additional witnesses already announced for the Government include: George Sylvester Viereck, Prescott Dennett, Boland of the F.B.I., four employees of the House Office Bldg. mail room and delivery service, three secretarial employees of the late Senator Lundeen, and probably Rep. Hamilton Fish and other members of his staff.