



Times-Herald Photo

Former Congress Employees Say Hill Knew German Agent

Photographed yesterday outside District Court, where George Hill, congressional secretary, is on trial for perjury, are Harriet Johnson, Mrs. Phyllis Spielman and Elizabeth Marie Tomai, formerly employed by the late Senator Lundeen, who testified Hill and George Sylvester Viereck, indicted German agent, were acquainted. Hill's denial of the acquaintance caused his indictment.

U.S. 'Planted' Hill Evidence, Counsel Says

T-#1113142

O'Connor, Maloney In Verbal Tangle at Uproarious Session

By JAMES J. CULLINANE

In an uproarious session which closed with defense counsel shouting the Department of Justice had "planted" evidence in its effort to convict George Hill of perjury, the Government yesterday in District Court reached the end of its case against the once obscure congressional secretary.

Replete with drama throughout the day, the trial yesterday featured the appearance of George Sylvester "I refuse to answer because it might incriminate me" Viereck, "high priest" of Nazi propaganda; three sprightly young women who said they knew Hill knew Viereck and vice versa, and four indignant House Post Office employees, who declared Hill and not themselves was responsible for secreting eight mail sacks sought by the special grand jury in the storeroom of Representative Hamilton Fish (R.), of New York.

Witness Shadowed

Spotlighting the intrigue motif

Hill

(Continued from First Page)

mail bags and turning to O'Connor and Maloney who were glaring fiercely at each other added, gently:

"Just a moment, gentlemen, I'll have the jury withdrawn and recess court. Then you can have the courtroom to yourselves."

The Hitler interview quoted the Nazi leader as saying: "Therefore, I say—America for the Americans; Europe for the Europeans."

Mrs. Spielman's story that Viereck wrote speeches which Senator Lundeen delivered in the summer of 1940 and that Hill directed their distribution through the mails under congressional franks was supported by Miss Harriet Johnson, acting secretary for the late Senator, and Miss Elizabeth Tomai, former clerk.

Viereck's Salutation

Miss Johnson said she once heard Viereck say over the telephone while talking to Hill:

"Hello, George, I'll be over in a few minutes."

Frank R. Monroe, foreman of the House Post Office mail platform; Charles Wilson, Irving Quinn jr., and Michael O'Gorman, his subordinates, struck powerful blows at the defense.

Monroe said Hill rushed into his office the day Prescott Dennett, secretary of the Islands for War Debts Committee, was summoned before the Grand Jury and asked that a truck be sent to the committee headquarters at once to pick up mail.

Wilson said he picked up 20 sacks of mail, took 12 to the America First Committee headquarters and brought eight to the House Office Building.

Relates Hill's Anger

every detail of his relations with Hill, including how much money if any he gave the congressional secretary.

"I refuse to answer on grounds it might incriminate me," responded Viereck.

Viereck U. S. Citizen

Maloney laid before Viereck a contract showing he had gained control of Flanders Hall, a publishing firm which the Government alleges was a distributing center for Nazi propaganda.

"I cannot answer on constitutional grounds," smiled Viereck.

Maloney asked Viereck if he had not admitted before the grand jury that he knew Hill.

"I cannot answer on grounds it might tend to incriminate me," said Viereck.

Viereck said he was born in Munich, but became an American citizen after his father took out naturalization papers after bringing him to this country as a child.

Story of Shadowing

He refused to answer all questions pertaining to his connection with the German government.

Viereck is under indictment for failing to disclose all of his activities to the State Department. He will be tried next month.

Mrs. Spielman, who was on the witness stand Friday when court recessed over the week end, told reporters she was followed by a strange man when she went back to New York. The stranger followed her to her apartment, she said. Saturday, when she left the apartment two strange men appeared and demanded the key from the apartment house manager, explaining they were building inspectors. They fled when the manager demanded to see

In an uproarious session which closed with defense counsel shouting the Department of Justice had "planted" evidence in its effort to convict George Hill of perjury, the Government yesterday in District Court reached the end of its case against the once obscure congressional secretary.

Replete with drama throughout the day, the trial yesterday featured the appearance of George Sylvester "I refuse to answer because it might incriminate me" Viereck, "high priest" of Nazi propaganda; three sprightly young women who said they knew Hill knew Viereck and vice versa, and four indignant House Post Office employees, who declared Hill and not themselves was responsible for secreting eight mail sacks sought by the special grand jury in the storeroom of Representative Hamilton Fish (R.), of New York.

Witness Shadowed

Spotlighting the intrigue motif in the drama was the story of being "shadowed" by mysterious agents, two of whom posed as building inspectors in an effort to search her apartment, told by Mrs. Phyllis Pasvivo Spielman, one-time research clerk for the late Senator Lundeen (F.L.), of Minnesota, after she gave testimony against Hill.

Bristling with belligerency, John O'Connor, chief defense counsel, and William Power Maloney, special assistant to the Attorney General, thundered out a perfect second act curtain climax at the close of the day while Justice F. Dickinson Letts pounded for order and promised to clear the courtroom so the two attorneys could have the battleground all to themselves.

"Anywhere, Any Time"

"I'll be glad to meet Mr. O'Connor on any ground any time," shouted Maloney as the curtain fell.

Maloney and O'Connor, like two Kilkenny cats, verbally had been at each other's throats all day, and their tempers were on trigger edge just before the evening recess.

Maloney reached into one of eight sacks of mail stacked in front of the jury box and picked out a letter "at random, just like out of a grab bag," he explained.

The letter bore the frank of former Representative J. Thorkelson, of Montana, and contained excerpts from a newspaper correspondent's interview with Hitler. The interview fitted in exactly with a point Maloney had been making.

'Planting Charged'

O'Connor leaped to his feet shouting:

"I object. There's not another speech by Thorkelson in that bag. I'm willing to say this Thorkelson speech was planted there."

Maloney, his face flushed with wrath, shouted:

"I demand that Mr. O'Connor produce one shred of evidence to substantiate his reckless charge."

"This bag has been in the hands of the Department of Justice," continued O'Connor. "I want this bag sealed and kept out of the hands of the Department of Justice."

Justice Letts told U. S. Deputy Marshals to take custody of all the

mer of 1940 and that Hill directed their distribution through the mails under congressional franks was supported by Miss Harriet Johnson, acting secretary for the late Senator, and Miss Elizabeth Tomal, former clerk.

Viereck's Salutation

Miss Johnson said she once heard Viereck say over the telephone while talking to Hill:

"Hello, George, I'll be over in a few minutes."

Frank R. Monroe, foreman of the House Post Office mail platform; Charles Wilson, Irving Quinn jr., and Michael O'Gorman, his subordinates, struck powerful blows at the defense.

Monroe said Hill rushed into his office the day Prescott Dennett, secretary of the Islands for War Debts Committee, was summoned before the Grand Jury and asked that a truck be sent to the committee headquarters at once to pick up mail.

Wilson said he picked up 20 sacks of mail, took 12 to the America First Committee headquarters and brought eight to the House Office Building.

Relates Hill's Anger

Quinn said Hill later returned to the Post Office and ordered that the sacks be taken to the storeroom and not to Fish's office when they arrived.

O'Gorman said he was a new employe and when the sacks were unloaded he took them to Fish's office only to be told by Hill:

"What the hell do you mean by bringing that damned stuff up here. Take it to the storeroom."

Before the Grand Jury, the Government charges, Hill testified he had no idea how the sacks happened to reach the storeroom and also denied he ever knew or had talked with Viereck.

Viereck Refuses to Answer

Viereck was of little help to the Government. Speaking with an accent, the German agent smiled graciously and replied to every question:

"I refuse to answer on the grounds it might incriminate me."

That was his response when he was asked if he knew Hill, Representative Fish, Senator Rush Holt and Senator Lundeen. He did say in response to a question by O'Connor that he did not know defense counsel.

O'Connor asked Viereck to tell

jury that he knew Hill.

"I cannot answer on grounds it might tend to incriminate me," said Viereck.

Viereck said he was born in Munich, but became an American citizen after his father took out naturalization papers after bringing him to this country as a child.

Story of Shadowing

He refused to answer all questions pertaining to his connection with the German government.

Viereck is under indictment for failing to disclose all of his activities to the State Department. He will be tried next month.

Mrs. Spielman, who was on the witness stand Friday when court recessed over the week end, told reporters she was followed by a strange man when she went back to New York. The stranger followed her to her apartment, she said. Saturday, when she left the apartment two strange men appeared and demanded the key from the apartment house manager, explaining they were building inspectors. They fled when the manager demanded to see their credentials.

Mrs. Spielman reported the incident to the Department of Justice, but no action was taken there.

Dismissal Refused

At the conclusion of yesterday's session, Maloney said the Government had no further witness to recall.

O'Connor said he plans to recall John S. Gorrell, foreman of the grand jury; Mrs. Henry Grattan Doyle, secretary of the jury, and its official stenographer for cross-examination tomorrow before opening the defense case.

Justice Letts yesterday overruled a motion to dismiss the case put by O'Connor after Viereck testified. O'Connor contended the appearance of the Nazi agent created a prejudicial impression in the minds of the jury.

Justice Letts yesterday directed Maloney to surrender to O'Connor all parts of the grand jury minutes of the testimony of Dennett which referred to his association with Hill.