

Hill Forced to Lie, Maloney Charges

Prosecutor William Power Maloney, in his closing statement to the District Court jury hearing perjury charges against George Hill, a secretary to Representative Fish of New York, declared late today that Mr. Hill was forced to lie before the grand jury investigating Nazi propaganda "by the long arm of the Gestapo." (Earlier Story on Page A-1.)

Hill's Defense Rests, Offers No Witnesses; Case Nearing Jury

Justice Letts Denies Motion for Directed Verdict of Acquittal

Without presenting a single defense witness, counsel for George Hill, on trial in District Court under two charges of perjury, rested their case today and the jury was to hear one-hour summations by each side this afternoon.

Justice F. Dickinson Letts indicated he would place the case of the second secretary to Representative Fish, Republican, of New York, in the hands of the jury tomorrow morning after delivering his instructions.

The surprise defense move came in the sixth trial day immediately after Justice Letts had denied a defense motion for a direct verdict of acquittal. The jurist said, after studying this motion overnight, that he believed evidence against Hill was such he needed to hear no counter argument by the prosecution.

Defense Attorney John J. O'Connor, former member of the House from New York, announced that he would put no witnesses on the stand to dispute the Government's case. Justice Letts replied:

"Very well, are there prayers to be considered?"

Instructions Discussed.

Attorneys advanced to the bench and for a full hour discussed requests for instructions by the judge to the jury. At 11:15 a.m. Justice Letts announced a recess until 1 p.m., when counsel would reassemble, and said the jury would be called into the courtroom to hear concluding arguments after 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Hill is on trial on two counts of perjury: (1) That he falsely told the grand jury which was investigating Nazi activities that he did not know George Sylvester Viereck, registered German agent, and (2) that he did not order certain mail bags placed in a storeroom assigned to Representative Fish. The Government contends these bags came from the office here of Prescott Dennett, whom the prosecution claimed received contributions from Viereck for his isolationist Islands for War Debts Committee.

Mr. Fish, who said he was advising Mr. Hill at the time he was appearing before the grand jury, did not make an appearance at the trial.

O'Connor Mentioned Fish.

On October 24, when Mr. Hill was indicted, Attorney O'Connor, who served in the House with Mr. Fish, told Justice T. Alan Goldsborough in District Court:

"I am here to plead Congressman Fish not guilty."

Representative Fish thereupon was quoted as telling the Associated

Hill

(Continued From First Page.)

Press in New York that Mr. O'Connor "probably meant" that the Hill indictment was "part of the smear campaign against me."

"I will say that George Hill is 100 per cent O.K. and I'll back George Hill to the limit on anything."

For a full half hour after the Government yesterday had closed its case against Mr. Hill, Attorney O'Connor pleaded in favor of his motion.

Mr. O'Connor declared there was nothing in the mail sacks the grand jury need be interested in—only franked speeches by members of Congress. He pointed out that Mr. Hill did "finally" get the bags to the grand jury.

Viereck Connections Discounted.

Defense counsel also contended there was "not one scintilla" of evidence Mr. Hill ever met Viereck, and only the word of two girls in the late Senator Lundeen's office that they heard Viereck phoning Mr. Hill.

Justice Letts ruled yesterday that if convicted Mr. Hill will be sentenced under the District of Columbia code rather than under the Federal perjury statute as the defense had desired.

This decision means Mr. Hill could be sentenced to 2 to 10 years imprisonment on each of the two counts, prosecution attorneys said. A contrary ruling would have made the maximum jail sentence 5 years—but would have permitted a \$2,000 fine, it was stated.