

O'Connor Loudly Denies Viereck Link At Hill Trial

Implication Follows Demand to See His Client's Grand Jury Testimony

Former Representative John J. O'Connor yesterday shouted denials in District Court that he or George Hill, whom he is defending against perjury charges, had anything to do with George Sylvester Viereck, admitted Nazi propagandist, or the latter's attorneys.

Hiss, secretary to Representative Hamilton Fish (Republican), of New York, is on trial for asserting that he did not know Viereck, although, according to the indictment, he actually did know the propagandist.

The vociferous denials by Defense Attorney O'Connor came after his demand that he be given a copy of Hill's testimony before the special grand jury on Axis agents, which indicted Hill.

Maloney States His Terms

Special Prosecutor William Power Maloney stated his willingness to release Hill's grand jury testimony, but only on assurance that Hill's counsel would not divulge the contents to counsel for Viereck, who is due to go on trial shortly on charge of violating the laws requiring registration of foreign agents.

It was then that Defense Attorney O'Connor shouted that neither he nor Hill had anything to do with Viereck, and that he resented the insinuation.

Justice E. Dickinson Letts, who had quietly listened to O'Connor's outburst, interrupted at this point to remark:

"Well, you'll have to give the assurance."

Gives the Assurance

O'Connor gave the assurance, and, after court adjourned, received a transcript of Hill's grand jury testimony. O'Connor then requested a similar transcript of the testimony before the same grand jury by Prescott Dennett, of Washington, who, according to the grand jury, with the assistance of Hill and the financial aid of Viereck, distributed German propaganda under Congressional frank.

To this request, however, Prosecutor Maloney objected. Whereupon O'Connor broke into another outburst, asserting that the refusal was an "outrage."

"You say that the testimony belongs to the Government," cried O'Connor. "Who is the Government? We are the Government. We pay your salary."

Silent until this point, Associate Prosecutor Edward J. Hickey, Jr., dryly retorted:

"We paid your salary for a long time when you were up on the Hill."

O'Connor, a former Democratic Representative from New York, was "purged" by President Roosevelt in the 1938 elections.