

# Fish Aide Goes on Trial Today Accused of Axis Probe Perjury

By Dillard Stokes  
Post Staff Writer

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George Hill, free-spending \$2000-a-year secretary of Representative Hamilton Fish, will go on trial in the District Court today on a perjury indictment presented by the special grand jury on Axis agents.

Justice F. Dickinson Letts will preside over the trial of the slight, mild-mannered, 45-year-old Hill, whose boss says he is "100 per cent o.k." Government prosecutors called Hill the Washington key man of a Nazi propaganda machine, and said he admitted he got \$12,000 from a source he would not disclose.

The grand jurors charged that Hill told two false stories under oath:

1. When he said he did not give orders for certain mail bags to be placed in a storeroom used by Fish, in the new House Office Building. The mail bags had been spirited out of an alleged German propaganda base which was under the scrutiny of the grand jury.

2. When he said he did not know George Sylvester Viereck,

who was Hitler's ace propagandist in America for years before the war.

A chief witness for the prosecution will be Viereck himself.

Special Prosecutors William Power Maloney and Edward J. Hickey, jr., of the Department of Justice propaganda squad, expected to complete their case by Friday night. They plan to call the grand jury foreman, John S. Gorrell, telephone company engineer; the grand jury secretary, Mrs. Henry Grattan Doyle, president of the school board; the clerk, Stanley R. Darcey, transit company aid, and other grand jurors to testify about the investigation of Axis agents.

By these witnesses the Government plans to show that the grand jurors found it necessary to inquire into the activities of Viereck, Prescott Dennett, Hill and others to determine whether there were violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act or other crimes com-

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mitted. When Viereck was indicted for violation of the act, the grand jurors charged that he financed Dennett in the operation of antiinterventionist committees in Washington. With Dennett's help, said the grand jurors, Viereck got Hitler propaganda into the Congressional Record and then got it carried postage free under Congressional frank.

### Former Congressman Defends Hill

The eight mail bags spirited out of Dennett's headquarters a few hours after the grand jury called him, and later given up by Hill when he was threatened with a contempt of court citation, were full of unaddressed envelopes with antiinterventionist speeches inside and Congressional franks outside.

Defending Hill are William F. Cusick, of Washington, and John O'Connor, once a Congressman from New York, later vice chairman of a National Committee to Keep America Out of Foreign Wars which was founded by Fish shortly before his trip to Germany in 1939.

O'Connor said yesterday that they would have "scores of witnesses" but would not tell their names. He and Cusick refused to discuss the line of the defense. This might be a denial that Hill gave the testimony recited in the 16-page indictment, it might be a claim that it made no difference to the grand jury investigation that Hill answered with falsehoods, or it might be some other claim.

### Fish, O'Connor Charge Smear

Since the day The Post exposed how Fish's office sent a House truck which hauled off the mail bags from Dennett's headquarters Fish and O'Connor have cried "smear."

Fish sounded this cry when he "explained" the transaction to the House and he sounded it again when the grand jury answered a similar explanation, given by Hill, with a perjury indictment.

Fish charged in the House and O'Connor insinuated in court that there was something improper about the grand jury investigation. O'Connor renewed the claim yesterday, telling The Post that he planned to read magazine reports of the investigation to the jury to show much was secret about that grand jury room.