

Viereck Admits Refusal to Talk At Jury Probe

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Cross-Examination Of Publicist Will Be Continued

George Sylvester Viereck, under cross-examination in District Court, today admitted refusing to answer questions at grand jury proceedings against him more than a year ago on his connection with isolationist activities.

Reading of grand jury testimony by Prosecutor George A. McNulty disclosed that the defendant refused to answer on the grounds it would "attend to incriminate me." Viereck, on trial because of violating the Foreign Agents Registration Act, yesterday freely admitted, however, his prewar activities, claiming that he engaged in them because he felt it was his "patriotic duty to keep us out of war."

Jury May Get Case Tomorrow.

With Viereck facing further cross-examination and closing statements by both sides still to be delivered, it appeared the jury of three women and nine men would receive the case tomorrow.

Viereck, the second and final witness called by the defense, was on the stand throughout yesterday and under questioning of Defense Attorney Leo A. Rover maintained, with fist-thumping emphasis, that:

1. He neither concealed nor "shouted from the housetops" his connections with Flanders Hall publishing house and that the \$22,500 he invested in the firm for publication of isolationist pamphlets was his own money and not from any German sources.

Denies Being Foreign Office Agent.

2. He had never knowingly received any money from the Reich nor had ever served as an agent for the German Foreign Office.

3. He had ceased sending weekly reports to a Munich newspaper on the American political scene before our entrance into the war and has engaged in no such activities since.

4. He had not willfully concealed any information from the State Department concerning his activities

in this country.

The prosecution contends that Viereck's weekly reports to Munich were, in fact, intended for the German Foreign Office and that he concealed his propaganda activities with Flanders Hall, isolationist members of Congress and German consular officials in New York.

Viereck's explanation of his link with Flanders Hall, which published a number of anti-British books, was that he wanted a "jumping off place for after the war—to have a publishing house of my own" and that further he felt there was money to be made in printing non-interventionist books.

He admitted that he had "pirated" some of the manuscripts for Flanders Hall publications from the German Library of Information, but he pointed out that they were not copyrighted. Viereck freely admitted contributing "between \$2,000 and \$3,000 and maybe \$5,000" to the isolationist "Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee."

Says Neutrality Was Objective.

The defendant insisted that the money was his own, and that he did it because one of his "big objectives" was "to keep us out of the bloody mess." He said he believed the committee was "doing a patriotic duty" for the country.

Viereck likewise admitted being a friend of Representative Fish, Republican, of New York and the late Senator Lundeen of Minnesota, and had helped the latter "polish and lighten up" several of his speeches.

When asked by Mr. Rover if he had knowingly received money from the Nazi government to carry on his activities, Viereck replied:

"No, although I assume the money from the German Library of Information came from the Reich." He added that the State Department was aware the library was a "propaganda arm of the Reich" and that he, too, was acquainted with this fact when he signed a contract with the library as literary adviser.

On registering as a foreign agent, Viereck listed the Munich newspaper and later added the library as foreign principals.

Mrs. Viereck was the only other witness called by the defense.