

Nazi Stooge *Post 7-19-43*

At last George Sylvester Viereck has got his deserts. Once again he has been found guilty of violating the Foreign Agents Registration Act to the extent that he did not make an adequate explanation of himself as a paid propagandist of the German Reich. He was as guilty at the original trial as he is now, but last March the Supreme Court, seeking scrupulously to defend due process, decided there had been a mistrial. The mistrial occurred on a technicality. The trial justice turned out to be at fault. In his charge to the jury he bracketed all Viereck's propagandist activities as falling within the registration requirements of the Foreign Agents Act. In point of fact, some of these activities were said to be done on private account, not on official Germany's. And Viereck, according to the Supreme Court, was not called upon to explain work outside the jobs he did specifically for his principals, no matter how closely related they were. So the case was thrown out. The errant procedure was corrected at the current trial, Viereck was again found guilty, and now awaits sentence.

Viereck, of course, is a notorious Nazi (and, before that, German) propagandist of long standing and considerable ability. He was head and front of a propagandist machine financed with Hitler's money which sought to disguise from the American people the danger to our country of Hitler's bid for world power. This was done very skillfully. Viereck's technique was to show that Britain was the enemy, not Germany. In this campaign he found willing dupes among some of our congressional isolationists. He catered to their prejudices, and in turn they

allowed him to put his facile pen at their disposal. Some of the most plausible speeches in opposition to the President's foreign policy were ghosted by the brilliant Viereck. Historians will find this page in our prewar history, showing Hitler to have had representatives even in our own Congress, among the weirdest. The most charitable explanation of congressional complaisance is that the isolationist minds were either lazy or completely eroded by prejudice.

It was this kind of highly menacing activity which was, so to speak, extracurricular; that is to say, something apart from the publicity which Viereck did in this country as Hitler's paid propagandist. He was just doing the boys on the Hill a good turn. He had registered under the Foreign Agents Act, to be sure, but did not feel obligated to show the means by which he advanced Hitler's cause. Of course, such employment was of far more significance than the editing of a German publication, which was Viereck's official job. But the law is the law. It can divide Tweedledum from Tweedledee, no matter what the strain. Viereck was thus able to slide out of his deserts because all his nefarious stints for Hitler had been lumped together in the indictment. The most astonishing postscript to the Supreme Court reversal was that voices were raised among his patrons in Congress that Viereck should be recompensed for the wrong he had suffered. It was upon that kind of twisted sentiment that the Fuehrer once counted when he said that victory over "soft and degenerate Yankeedom" would be easy. Now that Viereck's guilt has again been proved, let us again praise William Power Maloney, the original prosecutor, whom the isolationists hounded, the Supreme Court scolded and the Attorney General removed for his excess of zeal. Sabotage has been kept at a minimum in this country because of our Maloneys.