

Franking Pictured As Tool of Viereck

Hill Says Flood of Isolationist Data
Was Mailed at Slight Cost to Germany

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The efforts of the George Sylvester Viereck-Prescott Dennett combine with one congressional contact alone enabled them to get about half a million pieces of isolationist, anti-British and anti-Administration speeches and articles before the people of the United States, with only slight cost to themselves or the German government, testimony in the Viereck trial indicated yesterday.

The witness, a nervous, bespectacled man, was George Hill, now a worker in a war plant, but in 1941 a clerk to Representative Hamilton Fish (Republican) of New York.

Under Congressional Frank

Hill took the stand during the afternoon session in District Court to testify that his employer had introduced him to Viereck, German agent being tried for failure to reveal the full extent of his activities for the Reich to the State Department. The Congressman, it seems, thought Hill might help his friend on a business matter. The immediate result of this meeting was the mailing, under Congressional frank, of well over 100,000 copies of an isolationist speech by the late Senator Ernest Lundeen.

Subsequently, Dennett (now being held pending trial for sedition) took over the contact work with Hill. And under his able direction, Hill arranged for the printing (at the low rates of the Government Printing Office) and the mailing (under Congressional frank and, therefore, at no cost for postage) of tons of material approved by Dennett and presumably Viereck, in whose pay he was.

Mailing Records

Some of the legislators wittingly or unwittingly involved in this scheme were Representative Martin L. Sweeney (Democrat) of Ohio, 10,000 of whose "Crosses in Flanders" postcards were mailed out under this arrangement; Senator D. Worth Clark (Democrat) of Idaho, whose speeches and Congressional Record inserts accounted for at least another 150,000 mailed pieces; Senator Gerald P. Nye (Republican) of North Dakota, under whose frank some 25,000 went out; Senator Burton K. Wheeler (Democrat) of Montana, 20,000 of whose "Stay Out of War" speech were mailed in this manner; and Representative Clare

Hoffman (Republican) of Michigan, whose isolationist postcards added another 30,000 pieces to the heap. About 15 legislators were involved, in all.

Indication of the scope of Viereck's operations came when Gerald Movius, secretary to Senator Nye, came to the stand as a witness for the Government, at the direction of Prosecutors Albert E. Arent and George A. McNulty.

"I first met Viereck when he came to my office in the Senate Office Building early in the summer of 1940," Movius told the court. In astonishment, he heard the visitor declare he wanted to buy "six or seven million" printed copies of a piece called "Propaganda in the Next War," inserted by Senator Nye in the Congressional Record.

Deal Never Consummated

"I told him that would cost about \$75,000," Movius continued, "and there wasn't that much money around anywhere." Viereck smiled and said finally that "it would be all right," the witness stated. The deal was never consummated, however, since the Senator refused to sell so large a number of copies to anyone "he didn't know very well."

Later, Movius testified, he read "somewhere" that the would-be buyer was an agent of the German Library of Information. And when Viereck approached him one day during lunch at the Carroll Arms Hotel he told him "very plainly" that he had no use for a foreign agent, "particularly if he was an American citizen."

"I told him exactly what I thought of the Nazi regime," Movius declared emphatically, "and that went for myself and Senator Nye. Just because we didn't believe in war didn't mean that we fell for the Nazi line."

Viereck's Book Quoted

Prosecutor Arent at this point turned to the jury and read an extract from Viereck's own book,

"Spreading the Germs of Hate":

During the last war, the book read, some of the most successful propagandists were the "lobbyists representing foreign interests" who "flocked" to the halls of Congress. And again and again, "congressmen became their unwitting dupes."

Prescott Dennett took the stand for the second time during the morning session, his memory, however, still failing him on details of his relationship with the defendant. Dressed in his Army private's uniform, Dennett dropped his sullenness during questioning by Defense Counsel John Wilson. He was just "hazy" on what he told the grand jury which indicted Viereck, he said.

Two other witnesses added their testimony to the Government's case yesterday. They were Eric Posselt, who worked for Viereck rewriting and translating material for "Facts in Review," publication of the German Library of Information, and Harry Abramowitz, who was Viereck's accountant for some 20 years, starting in the early 1920's.