

Hill Tells Court Of Method Used To Aid Viereck

T-14 7-7-43

German Agent George Sylvester Viereck merely capitalized on "an old congressional custom" when he contrived to flood the country with antiwar propoganda, it was testified in District Court yesterday by the ace propogandist's principal Capitol Hill go-between.

Called by the Government, George Hill, former clerk in the office of Representative J. Hamilton Fish (R.), of New York, told the jury that he purchased hundreds of thousands of Congressional Record reprints of non-internationalist speeches and mailed them under congressional frank to lists compiled at Viereck's direction from Who's Who in America.

Anyone Could Have It Done

Under cross-examination by Defense Attorney Leo A. Rover, Hill admitted that "anyone could have had it done and a lot of people did."

Hill said he also mailed Viereck's selections to a list belonging to the National Committee to Keep America out of Foreign Wars, of which group Fish was national chairman. The organization, he said, was comprised of some 50 members of Congress who believed this country should avoid foreign conflicts.

"Were you an isolationist?" Rover asked the witness.

"No," Hill replied with some spirit, "I was a non-interventionist!"

Nye's Aide Testifies

Another Capitol Hill acquaint-

ance of Viereck who testified yesterday was Gerald Movius, secretary of Senator Gerald Nye (R.), of North Dakota. He said he met Viereck in the summer of 1940 and that the defendant asked him about obtaining "six or seven million" reprints of a Congressional Record excerpt entitled "Propaganda in the Next War."

Movius said he advised Viereck that the cost of an order of that size would run "around \$75,000, and there isn't that much money, is there?"

At this point, the witness said, Viereck "looked into the fireplace and said, 'I think it can be arranged.'" The arrangement was never made, Movius said, "because I knew the Senator never would approve an order of that size."

Tells of Viereck's Income

Previously, Viereck's personal accountant had testified that Viereck's income from all sources during the years 1940-41 averaged about \$40,000 a year. He identified bookkeeping entries totaling \$22,871 which he said Viereck received from the German Library of Information during 1940.

This sum, the witness said, was over and above Viereck's \$500 a month salary and was paid for "literary work, editorial work and professional services." Another witness, Eric Posselt, of New York, who identified himself as a translator and writer, testified that he was hired by Viereck to put excerpts from German magazines into English at a salary of one cent per word translated.

George A. McNulty, special Federal prosecutor, said yesterday he expected to rest the prosecution's case against Viereck next Monday. The trial, he said, will be recessed after today's session until that time. The defense has indicated its presentation of their case will take a week.

Viereck is charged with registering improperly with the State Department under terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. He was convicted in February 1942 and sentenced to serve from two to six years in jail. This decision was voided by the U. S. Supreme Court, which held the jury had been improperly charged and a second trial ended in a mistrial a few weeks ago.