

T-14
4-23-43

Court Appoints Leo Rover, Wilson to Defend Viereck

Former U. S. Attorney Leo A. Rover and former U. S. Assistant Attorney John Wilson yesterday were appointed by Justice Bolitho J. Laws in U. S. District Court to defend George Sylvester Viereck writer, on a charge of failing to register properly with the State Department as an agent of Germany.

Justice Laws acted after Viereck signed and deposited with Samuel Silverman, clerk of Justice Laws' court, a statement that he was unable to employ counsel because of poverty. The jurist told the defendant:

"In this country it is recognized that every person accused of crime be given a fair trial. It is recognized that part of that right is the right to be represented by competent counsel."

The attorneys he named, Justice Laws said, had agreed to take the assignment the court gave them as a patriotic duty in upholding this principle of law.

Justice Laws said he felt that Viereck, particularly because he was accused of fealty to a country with which the United States is at war, should be entitled to adequate representation. The jurist said further hearings in the case would be continued until May 19 and that the trial itself, barring unforeseen contingencies, should begin June 7.