

Viereck, Wife Due to Testify In Trial Today

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**Defense Motion for
Directed Verdict
Is Overruled**

George Sylvester Viereck and his American-born wife were to testify today in the District Court trial of Viereck, as the defense opened its case with a motion for a directed verdict.

The motion was denied by Justice Bolitha J. Laws after Defense Attorney John J. Wilson claimed the Government's evidence in trying the German-born defendant on charges of violating the Foreign Agents' Registration Act had been "highly circumstantial."

Mr. Wilson asserted that the Government had submitted "no tangible evidence" to sustain the charges that Viereck failed to list all foreign principals for whom he worked before this country's entrance into the war, and that he failed to give a comprehensive statement of his activities.

Defendant's Record Traced.

Following Justice Laws' action overruling the motion, Mr. Wilson delivered a lengthy opening statement to the jury.

He pictured Viereck as a prominent literary figure who urged neutrality between the United States and Germany prior to two wars.

"Once a rupture occurred in relation, however," Mr. Wilson declared, "Mr. Viereck was no longer an isolationist. He stopped in his tracks and put his shoulder to the wheel and worked for the country of his adoption."

The attorney claimed that Viereck, during the last war made speeches for liberty loan drives.

The defendant, Mr. Wilson said, was born in Munich in 1884 and came to this country with his parents at the age of 12. Two years later he wrote his first poem, which Mr. Wilson said defended the United States against press attacks by the Germans. His father became a naturalized citizen in 1901 and Viereck, as a minor, automatically became a citizen.

Was Exchange Professor.

Viereck attended New York schools and received a B. A. degree from the College of the City of New York, Mr. Wilson continued. In 1909 Viereck returned to Germany for the first time—as an exchange professor to lecture at the University of Berlin on American poetry. In time, Viereck became a good friend of such notables as President Theodore Roosevelt, George Bernard Shaw, William Jennings Bryan and Mark Twain, his attorney said.

At the suggestion of a Harvard professor friend, Viereck started to work on writings to offset growing anti-German feeling in this country prior to the last war, Mr. Wilson claimed.

"He urged neutrality in the last war as in this one," he asserted.

Mr. Wilson said that the defendant had two sons, Peter and George Sylvester, jr., both in the American Army now in North Africa.