

Viereck Sent Nazis Report, He Testifies

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Caught in a cross-fire of questioning by Federal Prosecutor George A. McNulty and the evidence of his own reports to Germany, George Sylvester Viereck yesterday acknowledged two facts, considered by the Government of paramount importance in the trial to convict the German agent of violating the Foreign Agents Registration Act:

Viereck did, in the fall of 1939, send a report to Berlin (addressed to German Ambassador to the United States Diekhoff but meant, he insists, for the editor of the Munich newspaper for which he claims he worked) in which he urged that the Nazi government issue a group of official publications "to counteract British propaganda" in this country. They should deal, he suggested, with the evils of British policy in India and Palestine, with descriptions of British slums, etc.

Subsequently, a series of books and pamphlets on these subjects was put out by the German Foreign Office in Berlin, and found their way into the German Library of Information in New York, for which Viereck was registered as an agent. Shortly afterward, however, his "personally" financed Flanders Hall publishing firm produced a number of books Viereck admits were based on this material from the German Foreign Office. He used this material, defense counsel claims, because it contained the "proper" slant on a "cause dear to his heart," the "cause of isolationism."

Polish Atrocity Series

After another series of "personal opinions" to the effect that a Nazi-published white book on Polish atrocities against Germans ought to "reach this country" before the Polish government sent its white book, and that a committee in Germany headed by German Ambassador Diekhoff should be set up to "send the right things" to "English-speaking countries," Viereck wrote his Nazi correspondent:

"I hope you will discuss these matters with the powers that be."

"Since you state that this correspondence was directed to a newspaper editor and not to the

German Foreign Office," Prosecutor McNulty challenged, "who are these 'powers that be'?"

"Oh," Viereck replied, "I meant persons, like Dr. Diekhoff, who knew and loved the United States."

Confronted with testimony by Sigrid Schultz, former Berlin correspondent for the Chicago Tribune, that he had "created a disturbance" among American correspondents at the Nazi rally in Nuremberg in 1939 with his vocal indorsement of Nazi policy in Czecho-Slovakia, Viereck said from the stand:

"I myself had been in the Sudeten . . . and had relatives there . . . I sympathized with their plight, yes."

Complained of Radio

Still allegedly writing to the Munich editor as a "correspondent," Viereck complained in one report about the "unfriendly" broadcasts from Germany of Miss Schultz and Correspondent William Shirer. They had not a "kind word" for "the New Germany." On one occasion they had actually broadcast to this country that Berlin dogs would get no sausage at Christmastime, he reported.

"Perhaps this is because they

are not sufficiently fed," he suggested. They might be given an "additional" food ration, he thought.

"In any case," Viereck declared in this report, "they should not be given radio facilities" until they were prepared to "deal more chivalrously" with "the country that harbors them."

This, too, the defendant declared from the witness stand, he thought, wholly within the province of "comment" from a "correspondent for a Munich newspaper writing to his editor."

At one point, worn by McNulty's persistent questioning, Viereck half rose from his seat to protest loudly against the prosecution's repeated reference to "a single phrase" from his book, "Spreading the Germs of Hate." An attempt was being made to "trip him" into admitting that he "circumvented the law," he shouted.

An American Citizen

Subsiding, although still wary of "traps," Viereck went on to declare again and again that all his propaganda activities, prior to this war and during the last, were inspired by "purely patriotic motives as an American citizen."

It was true, he acknowledged, that the German and Austrian governments might have "made some contributions to my efforts" in the last war. The Government indicated that these "contributions"

amounted to about \$140,000. Viereck, however, had "not the slightest idea."

For the rest, the defendant drew on lapses in memory in identifying persons, dates and publications through which he pursued his propaganda activities. If he had written in 1941 that Hitler was one of the greatest men in the world, "it was probably written with my tongue in my cheek," he said airily.

At any rate, he fully indorsed the policy of "America for Americans and Europe for Europeans," said the German-born American citizen.

The Government will produce a surprise rebuttal witness this morning before beginning its closing statement to the jury. He is Sanford Griffith, former United States Army major and member of G-2. To him, the prosecution indicated yesterday, Viereck in 1940 confided that he had received money from the German Embassy to finance his propaganda activities. Viereck denied this yesterday.