

Viereck Denies He Willfully Hid Activities

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By Adele Bernstein
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Again denying specific Government charges that his political activities in behalf of the German government were "wilfully" concealed from the State Department, George Sylvester Viereck yesterday took the witness stand for a second time to assert that his work "for the cause of isolationism" was done "purely on my own."

Under this heading, the defendant volubly described such matters as his relationship with Dr. Hans Borchers, German consul general in New York; Prescott Dennett, now awaiting trial under a Federal indictment for conspiracy to commit sedition among members of the armed forces, and to whose Make Europe Pay War Debts Committee he contributed "perhaps as much as \$5000" of "my own money"; the late Senator Ernest Lundeen and Representative Hamilton Fish, and the publishing firm of Flanders Hall, which put out numerous books allegedly based on material sent from Berlin.

Admits Big Loss

Viereck admittedly sank \$22,500 in this publishing venture, getting a return of about \$4500 on his investment before closing shop shortly before Pearl Harbor. It was a business venture, he declared, from which he hoped to make money.

Considerably more at ease this time, Viereck seemed eager to elaborate on his congressional connections and their mutual concern with the problem of keeping America out of war. At the behest of Special Assistant to the Attorney General George A. McNulty, however, Defense Counsel Leo A. Rover urged him to brevity.

His friendship with Senator Lundeen dated back to the first World War, Viereck said, and they shared the view that this country should be "as strong as possible" but should "keep out of other countries' affairs." He admitted freely, however, that "everyone" knew of his own work for a Munich newspaper and the German Library of Information, an arm of the Propaganda Ministry in Berlin.

News Letters Read

Prosecution and defense alternated in reading aloud to the jury sections from Viereck's "news letters" to his Munich editor, many of which were addressed to German Ambassador Diekhoff for the purpose, the defense insists, of evading the British censors. The Government maintains that these reports on American public opinion prior to the war were actually meant for the German Foreign Office.

One report, dated April 10, 1940, complained of Dorothy Thompson's presence in Italy and the probability that she would write about the "weakness" of Italian economy. The activities of Clare Boothe Luce also would "bear watching" while she was in Europe, the report said. "She is the author of that poisonous play, 'Margin for Error,' which is still running on Broadway," Viereck wrote.

As examples of "the excellent material to be found in the Congressional Record," Viereck reported to his superior that he was sending speeches by Representatives Hamilton Fish and Jacob Thorkelsen. He also noted in a dispatch that the Munich newspaper for which he worked had reprinted a speech by Charles A. Lindbergh.

Viereck faces a return to the witness stand today, when he will be cross-examined by the prosecution. Barring "unforeseen delays," the case is expected to be in the hands of the jury by tomorrow morning.