

Legislators' Names Enter Viereck Case

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Congress Target For Propaganda Publishing Firm, Hauck Testifies

The names of Senators and Representatives entered the records of District Court yesterday, as Federal Prosecutor George A. McNulty demonstrated how American legislators were circularized with isolationist, anti-British publications printed by Flanders Hall, the publishing house subsidized and controlled, without knowledge by the State Department, by German agent George Sylvester Viereck.

Under questioning, Sigrid H. Hauck, 28-year-old former manager of Flanders Hall now employed in an airplane plant, told the court that Prescott Dennett (now awaiting trial under a Federal conspiracy indictment) had been hired by Viereck to handle a publicity campaign directed at Congress.

Hauck identified a letter written him by Dennett, boasting that one Senator had promised to "see how he could use the Congressional Record" for insertion of Flanders Hall material. Another letter from Dennett stated that former Congressman Martin L. Sweeney (Democrat) of Ohio, described as "a fighting 100 per cent American," would introduce a "complete address" in the Record "which will give you more publicity."

A group of eight letters was introduced into the testimony from legislators who had written the "publicity man," commending a Flanders Hall publication. However, Prosecutor McNulty pointed out, many of the writers were unaware that Viereck was behind the Flanders Hall venture and that some of the books they were receiving through Dennett's publicity activities were prepared from

manuscripts written by the agent.

Writers of the letters were identified as Representative Fred Bradley (Republican) of Michigan, Representative Usher L. Burdick (Republican) of North Dakota, Senator Pat McCarran (Democrat) of Nevada, Representative John M. Coffee (Democrat) of the State of Washington, former Representative George H. Tinkham (Republican) of Massachusetts, and others. McNulty maintained that their favorable comments had been "extracted" from them through "camouflage" of the material they were sent.

Challenged by the defense on Viereck's right to withhold his identity with the publishing company, McNulty declared that the issue "is whether Viereck willfully camouflaged his activities when he registered with the Secretary of State" as a foreign agent. All decisions of the outfit were known to and approved by him, Hauck said of his former employer.

Such legislators as Representative at Large Stephen A. Day (Republican) of Illinois and former Senator Rush D. Holt of West Virginia actually entered into negotiations with Flanders Hall to have their books published, the witness revealed, but subsequently, because of "adverse publicity," withdrew from the arrangement. Day had offered to furnish a mailing list for circulation of his book, according to the testimony, while Holt had sent Hauck a check and note each for \$500 to cover initial printing costs and editorial work. But despite various deals of this nature, the two largest purchasers of Flanders Hall books were the German Library of Information and Viereck, himself, Hauck told the court.

The defendant smiled modestly as Defense Attorney Leo A. Royer, through persistent questioning, elicited from Hauck an admission that he had at one time written Viereck that he considered him "the foremost poet in America today." He had at the time "honestly espoused the cause of non-intervention in the war, Hauck stated, but following Pearl Harbor had abandoned such views.

With the completion of Hauck's testimony yesterday, witnesses scheduled for today are Thomas H. Morgan, FBI accountant, who is expected to give a picture of Flanders Hall's financial setup, and Dr. Werner Ellinger, who will compare the contents of books published by Viereck's outfit with several put out by the German Information Office in Berlin.