

# Hiring of Nazi Agent by U. S. Shocks Court

New York, Aug. 26 [Special].—Amazement at the ease with which a paid agent of the German government was able to get a job in Nelson Rockefeller's bureau of inter-American affairs was expressed today by Federal Judge John C. Knox at the arraignment before him of Roberto L. Vallecilla, Roberto Lanas Vallecilla, 35 years old, on an indictment charging espionage.



"Do they take any one who comes along down there?" Judge Knox exclaimed when informed Vallecilla worked in New York for the German government from Sept. 1, 1940, to Dec. 7, 1941, and was able in February, 1942, to obtain employment as a foreign language translator in the Rockefeller bureau.

## Background Not Probed.

The judge indicated surprise that a government agency would hire a man for such a position without exhaustive investigation of his background. A department of justice announcement issued Aug. 7, when Vallecilla was arrested by the federal bureau of investigation, said his activities had first come to the attention of the FBI in the spring of 1941.

Vallecilla, a native of Colombia, told Judge Knox that he wanted to plead guilty, but the jurist refused to accept the plea. Because the indictment, which was returned today, charges that the alleged acts of espionage took place before the United States entered the war, the maximum penalty on conviction is 20 years' imprisonment, federal officials said.

Bruce Barton, advertising executive and former congressman, headed the grand jury which indicted Vallecilla.

## Admits Getting \$3,000.

United States Atty. John B. McNally told the court Vallecilla has signed a statement admitting he had been paid more than \$3,000 by German agents for information concerning the defense of the United States.

Vallecilla is accused in the indictment of entering into a conspiracy to supply such information to Germany when he met German agents in Portugal while a student there. He came to New York and started sending letters abroad, it was said, leading to seizure by the FBI of a letter in secret ink containing figures on American airplane production.