

HUGO FRIEDBERGER - QUESTION OF REVOCATION OF  
NATURALIZATION CERTIFICATE.

The Home Secretary has received the following report from the Certificates of Naturalization (Revocation) Committee in the case of Hugo Friedberger. The Home Secretary has accepted the conclusion of the Committee that there is not sufficient ground for the revocation of Mr. Friedberger's certificate of naturalization.

"We have considered the case of Hugo Friedberger pursuant to the letter addressed to this Committee on March 2nd, 1942.

"The allegation made against Hugo Friedberger was that he has shown himself by act to be disaffected and disloyal to His Majesty in that, contrary to the vital interests of the State and to the efficient prosecution of the war, he had failed to comply with his obligations under the Defence (Finance) Regulations, 1939, and, in particular, refrained until on or about the 8th day of September, 1941, from offering or causing to be offered for sale to His Majesty's Treasury the sum of £ 93,375, but retained the same to his own use.

"On October 23, 1941, Friedberger at the Bow Street Police Court before Harold McKenna, Esq., one of the Magistrates of the Police Courts of the Metropolis, pleaded guilty to the charge laid by Information against him by the Director of Public Prosecutions - For That He having been in the United Kingdom since the 3rd day of September, 1939, and being entitled to sell a sum of £ 93,375 in United States Dollars, which currency is specified in the Defence (Finance) Regulations, 1939, did fail to offer the said £ 93,375 for sale to His Majesty's Treasury, contrary to Regulation 5 of the Defence (Finance) Regulations, 1939. Friedberger was convicted and was fined £25,000 and also ordered to pay the further sum of £50 for costs.

"Friedberger subsequently appealed to the County of London Sessions against that fine and the appeal was dismissed with costs.

"Before this Committee it was admitted that, apart from the matters relied upon with regard to this breach of the Defence (Finance) Regulations, 1939, he had over a period of forty-one years resided in this country and proved himself in every respect a loyal citizen whose activities during this War have materially contributed to the successful prosecution of the War.

"We are unable to accept Friedberger's excuse for his breach of the Regulations that he believed that the Regulations only applied to securities and the proceeds of securities and not to cash deposits.

"We do not accept the argument which was at one stage of the proceedings advanced on his behalf that disaffection or disloyalty within the meaning of Section 7 (I) of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914, as amended in 1918, necessarily involves affection for the enemy or the enemy's cause.

"Having considered all the facts and circumstances of the case, including the fact that Friedberger eventually made a voluntary disclosure of this deposit and that the proceedings taken against him were the result of such disclosure, we do not consider that it has been established that Hugo Friedberger has shown himself by this one act to be disaffected or disloyal to His Majesty, and we report accordingly."

The report was signed by Mr. Justice Tucker, Sir Douglas Hacking, O.B.E., M.P., and Lady (Ernest) Simon.

+++++

HOME OFFICE