

# America First Heads Seen As in Business as Usual

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(Special to the Sunday Worker)

CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—Leaders of appeasement in the Middle West have not stopped their war against the American people. They have only made a "tactical retreat."

The America First Committee and the rest of the pro-Nazi crew were engaged here this week in reforming their ranks. In spite of official pronouncements that the committee has "dissolved," activities in the national offices of America First are continuing unabated.

This reporter learned that a special staff has been put to work compiling membership lists and otherwise preparing for "future activities." This work, it was learned, is being financed by Gen. Robert Wood, chairman of America First, and some fascist-minded Congressmen.

Behind the honeyed "unity" phrases, the appeasers here are pre-

paring a major offensive with the artillery of defeatism, sly reflections against the U. S. government and the armed forces, and anti-Semitism.

The tip-off to the membership of America First was contained in the announcement that the organization was going out of business—in name only.

In its statement of dissolution, the committee declared that "our principles were right," and in effect served notice that the appeaser group will be heard from further.

Hitlerite organizations functioning under the control of the fascist priest Father Coughlin were also given notice to change their tactics but not their basic pro-Nazi line. The current issue of Coughlin's "Social Justice" points out that there are legal steps which the government can now

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take against spies and traitors, "but there is no law forbidding a man's memory to function."

In this paper, the fascist Axis is given a thorough whitewashing and the full responsibility for the war is thrown on the U. S. government. Coughlin is enraged because "Britain will not admit she caused the war."

## TRIBUNE CARRIES ON

Further evidence that this nest of appeasers has not hauled down the swastika was found in the Chicago Tribune, organ of America First, which has also made the pretense of turning against Hitler.

On Thursday, Dec. 11, the very day that Hitler declared war on the United States, the Tribune sent up an editorial prayer for the defeat of the Soviet Union. The Tribune shuddered editorially at the thought of "a victorious Russia," and belled completely the pro-Nazi paper's protestations of support for the anti-Axis coalition.

With the nation at war, it was apparent that the pro-Hitler elements grouped around America First and the Tribune will play a more sinister role than ever before.

One reason why the leaders of "America First" have decided to put on some camouflage is the shock which many of their honest rank and file followers suffered

with the assault on Pearl Harbor. Thousands of these people—whose hopes for peace had been played upon by the pro-Nazi leadership—saw in a flash the seditious character of the Lindberghs and their like. The additional disclosure that Laura Ingalls, one of the most vociferous of "America First" orators, is a paid agent of the Hitler government has opened the eyes of these people still further. Hence, for the pro-Nazis there must be a new tactic adopted.

## WOULD DISRUPT UNITY

The columns of the Tribune this week carried poisonous propaganda designed to undermine American morale and to drive a wedge into the unity of the people.

Under the cloak of "expert" criticism, the Tribune's military specialist, Capt. M. M. Corpening, published a shoddy and false libel on the U. S. armed forces. Corpening gave his "reasons" why "the United States Army falls short of being a fighting force of high efficiency."

The paper is also filled with glowing accounts of Japanese heroism and superiority. One story was headlined: "Japs' air force proves mettle, experts assert; ability, morale of pilots is surprise." The "experts," it turned out, were those imaginary and anonymous dupes whom the Tribune is so fond of quoting.

The America First Committee made the decision to close its offices after a meeting of the national executive board here. This action was taken in spite of letters received from pro-fascist Congressmen urging the committee to continue.

## SAVES THE NAME

In announcing the move, General Wood declared that certain legal steps would have to be taken in the dissolution under the state corporation laws. There was a sinister implication in Wood's announcement that the group was making sure that no other organization could use the name "America First" in the future.

The "parting shot" of America First was considered here as a brazen affront to the nation which has been so foully attacked. The Hitlerite committee did not blame the Axis pirates for the war. Proving that the appeasers have not suffered a change of heart, the statement declared: "Our principles were right. Had they been followed, war could have been avoided."

Strong feeling was expressed here that these pro-Nazi leaders should not be absolved of their guilt by a wily and clearly insincere pledge of support to the government. It will be remembered that the America First Committee has never made public the source of its enormous funds.