

Bennett Asserts Ford Is Not a Supporter Of Gerald L. K. Smith

By the Associated Press.

DETROIT, April 8.—Harry H. Bennett of the Ford Motor Co. in a statement today repudiated claims he said had been made by Gerald L. K. Smith, national director of the American First party, that Mr. Smith has the support of Henry Ford.

—Mr. Smith promptly stated: "My movement has no organic or financial connection whatsoever with the Ford Motor Co. No one authorized to speak for me has ever said so."

Mr. Bennett's statement said: "I understand from newspaper reports that Smith has told Gov. Thomas Dewey if Dewey wishes to refer to Smith's followers he should understand that they include such persons as Henry Ford. I want to say definitely for Mr. Ford, Mr. Charles Lindbergh and myself, if and when Mr. Smith ever attempts to include us with his supporters, nothing is farther from our intentions."

Mr. Lindbergh is employed by Ford as a technical consultant.

Gov. Dewey in an address Tuesday night said that "the Gerald L. K. Smiths and their ilk must not for one moment be permitted to pollute the stream of American life."

In reply to Mr. Bennett's statement today, Mr. Smith said: "Henry Ford was one of the original directors of the America First Committee; Charles A. Lindbergh is the apostle of America Firsters everywhere. In my big mass meetings no name is cheered as loudly as that of Charles A. Lindbergh. My letter to the Governor of New York defined the world 'ilk.' I assume that all America Firsters are of the same ilk."

"Mr. Harry Bennett is right when he says Mr. Ford and Mr. Lindbergh are not listed among my enrolled supporters. The friends of Mr. Ford, Mr. Lindbergh and myself were the ones who beat Willkie in Wisconsin. No shrewd politician will deny this."