

SECRET GROUP

Formed for U. S. Defeat Contacts America Firsters

TO MY FRIENDS WHO WERE FORMERLY MEMBERS OF AMERICA FIRST

It being impossible for me to write each of you a personal letter will you please accept in its place the enclosed mimeographed announcement of a new organization I hope you will join and support.

Something about the temporary chairman of AMERICANS FOR PEACE

Horace J. Haase was born in Brooklyn N.Y. of American parents on Jan. 4th, 1909. He has spent the last seven years studying America's economic and social problems. He is the author of

When THE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE was organized he joined the New York Chapter and lectured or soap-boxed, as opportunity offered, until the Committee was disbanded on Dec. 12th. For the last four months he was Chairman of the Speakers Bureau of the Brooklyn Chapter.

Firsters' Revival: "Americans for Peace" is an organization modeled after America First and ~~using America First~~ mailing lists and membership rolls. This letter addressed to "My friends who were formerly members of America First" accompanied invitations to the secret Brooklyn meeting.

AMERICANS FOR PEACE
1165 Broadway, New York, N.Y.

Dear Friend:

We will hold our first Brooklyn Chapter Membership Meeting on June 12th at 8 p.m. at the Prospect Park Y.M.C.A. 357 9th St. Bklyn. We are sending you this notice now so that we can be sure of getting enough people to fill the 250 seats available. The tickets below may be clipped and given to your friends. Please be sure to give them ONLY TO THOSE WHO ARE IN SYMPATHY WITH OUR CAUSE. Admission will be by these tickets and this letter ONLY. This letter is your admission. The tickets bearing your number are for your friends. Your invitation number is [] and appears on each of the tickets below so that we will know who invited each guest and new member. Write for additional tickets and information.

At this early date we do not know the names of our speakers but they will be a Catholic Priest, a Protestant Minister and a non-sectarian layman in addition to the Chairman. Names will be announced later.

Organizing Treason? Here is an invitation to the secret meeting of a defeatist organization patterned after America First and sent out to former members of America First. Note the ninth line. The invitations are carefully numbered to keep out those "not in sympathy" with defeatism.

By Ernest Moore

"America First," the catch-all of defeatists, fascists and appeasers that ran for cover as soon as American guns spoke to avenge Pearl Harbor, is doing Hitler's business again openly in New York. It has a new name—that's the only difference.

Yesterday the Daily Worker discovered its new headquarters, talked to its fanatical, anti-Semitic boss and learned these facts of prime importance to every American who wants to win the war against fascism:

1. The name of the new outfit is "Americans for Peace"—headquarters at 1165 Broadway.

2. The organization is headed locally

by Horace J. Haase who was chief of the America First Committee speakers' bureau in Brooklyn before America First nominally disbanded.

3. It has already "perfected" (that was the word Mr. Haase used) its Brooklyn organization; is about to announce termination of its Manhattan organization and expects to be in operation in all five boroughs within a "few weeks."

4. It has made plans to hold a secret meeting in Brooklyn on June 12 organized strictly by invitations sent out to former members of America First, each invitation bearing a code number. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the Prospect Park Y.M.C.A. at 8 P. M.

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 1)

5. The central feature of the program is PEACE WITH HITLER NOW—or as stated in the organization's official newsletter: "We advocate peace without victory."

Let's consider the implications of one of these points before we examine "Americans for Peace" any closer. The numbered invitations to the Brooklyn meeting announced for Friday were enclosed with a letter which began:

"To my friends who were formerly members of America First . . ."

There is the proof that this outfit is the direct descendant of America First, that it possesses and uses America First membership and mailing lists. Its literature and this reporter's conversation with Haase provided ample additional proof that its aims are the same as America First: namely to secure America's defeat (or Hitler's victory, if you prefer to state it that way) in this war.

I found Haase, a youngish man of about 33, in room 203 of 1165 Broadway, a rickety old five-story building. He has office space in a big room occupied by the "Manhattan Single Tax Club" whose monthly paper, "Money," was barred from the mails last month as seditious.

Haase seemed apologetic about his modest surroundings and said he expected to have "more suitable" quarters soon. The room was filled with elderly men and women of the type so many of whom were fooled into joining America First. All were busily folding papers for mailing.

When I entered Haase got up from his desk, walked rapidly past the busy old people and met me. "What can I do for you?" he asked briskly. "I am H. J. Haase."

In the hot office he was working without a coat or tie and with his sleeves rolled up. He had that peculiarly intense quality of speaking that America First soapboxers all seemed to possess.

He told me that up to now his organization had been able to get out only a mimeographed newsletter and he gave me two copies.

"Within a month I expect to have my own newspaper," he said, "and they won't stop me from getting it out either."

I scanned the newsletter, which is headed "AMERICA'S HOPE." Its first few lines read:

"The first shock is over. And those who hate war . . . are beginning to recover their balance. . . . They are slowly coming to see that while the Japanese assault changed a few things it has not affected in the least the soundness of their pre-December arguments . . ."

There was the declaration that Pearl Harbor—that America's entry into the war against fascism—

means nothing to the ex-Americans for Peace.

But the essence of the new line which was also the essence of the Lindbergh-Coughlin-Hearst line America First—came a little further down in the newsletter.

Americans for Peace, it said, "a determined that this time there shall be . . . PEACE WITHOUT VICTORY." (The emphasis is theirs. Meaning, of course, negotiate peace with Hitler and defeat of America.)

"HAVE TO BE CAREFUL"

I told him that I was interested in this "revival" of America First—I used the word "revival" purposely because I wanted to see if he would deny that his outfit was a revival of America First—and that I wanted to know more about it.

"Yes," he said without the slightest hesitation, and then added: "We have to be more careful than we used to—much more careful."

I told him I could understand that.

"Yes," he said, "but there are ways that we can work, and we are making progress."

In Brooklyn where Haase was chief of America First soapboxers anti-Semitic violence was almost as common as in Yorkville. I knew that Haase had been responsible for the organization of these meetings.

"Well, those days are over for the time being," he said. "We can't work that way any more. We can't even have street meetings now."

"There are other ways," he added after a moment.

Haase is an athletic little man.