

Isolationist Appointed Head Of GOP Finance Committee

By LUTHER CONANT, JR.

Samuel B. Pettengill, newly appointed chairman of the Republican National Finance Committee, has a long record as a big-time, big-business propagandist.

He has propagandized for isolationism and against the New Deal and trade unions.

It is slick-paper propaganda. Some of his anti-New Deal tracts sell for as high as a \$1 a copy.

Pettengill is the head of the Committee for Constitutional Government, alias the National Committee to Uphold Constitutional Government, alias America's Future, Inc. The name may vary, but never its bitter and uncompromising reactionary propaganda against the New Deal.

The active director of the committee is Dr. Edward A. Rumley, once editor of the now defunct New York Mail, who was sentenced to a year and a day in prison for receiving German money during the last World War. The sentence later was commuted to a month, which he served.

Among the listed trustees are Frank E. Cannett, high ranking priest of Republican reactionism, and Amos Pinchot, isolationist brain-truster. Sumner Gerard is treasurer.

Supported Lindbergh

Three months before Pearl Harbor, Pettengill was one of 58 Americans who bitterly attacked the President's Sept. 11 shoot-on-sight speech. The statement was released through Gen. Wood, leader of America First.

Pettengill openly supported the Lindbergh line and told a Philadelphia meeting that an "American Party" would "take care

of" what he called traitors responsible for putting the British Empire ahead of America.

In January, Pettengill laid down the war-time line of his committee. It would support the "right to work." This support had taken the form of publications filled with inciting pictures of strike violence, sprinkled with quotations from Westbrook Pegler.

The committee also would "resist any group trying to use the war as a smoke screen for class rule or to socialize America." The committee had for some time been warning the U. S. A. of the "menace" of Communism and the New Deal.

Pettengill highly praised Sens. Taft and Byrd.

'Daily News' Line

This Winter, the committee adopted the *Daily News* line that there might be no elections—but postponed the date until after this Fall.

"If you intend to do any beefing in the next two years, do it now. In 1942. This Spring. Next November. This may be your last chance to beef."

Pettengill was appointed finance chairman by Joe Martin, chairman of the Republican National Committee. Martin earlier appointed Clarence Budington Kelland, rabid isolationist and rabid Roosevelt-hater, as publicity director.

Thus, Pettengill and Kelland now are the ranking organizational big shots for the Republican party.