

His Outfit Asks 'Why Win War'--- Who Finances Him?

'Constitutional Educational League' Spreads Goebbels-Type Defeatism

By JOHN MELDON

(First of two Articles)

Operating behind the treasonable slogan "Why Avenge Pearl Harbor?" there is a dangerous, well financed national organization with offices in three key American cities which is issuing tons of printed literature reading virtually word for word like propaganda of Herr Goebbels himself.

This outfit hides behind the misleading name of the "Constitutional Educational League."

Up to the morning of the attack on Pearl Harbor, this outfit was known to the labor movement for its long, odorous record of strike-breaking, and its particular target in recent years was the CIO unions.

REFUSES TO ANSWER

Today, the "Constitutional Educational League" looms as one of the most arrogant of the disruptive organizations still permitted to operate in this country.

The leader of the organization, Joseph P. Kamp, head of the New York office at 342 Madison Avenue, room 501, when faced with a reporter from the Daily Worker flatly refused to answer questions as to where the organization gets its money; who backs it; who besides himself runs the outfit, or any other information for that matter.

Kamp's personal history would bear the stamp of approval of any heel-clicking fascist. He was executive editor of "The Awakener," a blatantly fascist magazine which until 1935 was published in New York City by the notorious pro-fascist Lawrence Dennis.

This sheet was put out fortnightly from December, 1933 until 1935. Earlier, in 1931, Kamp shared an office and telephone with the Italian Historical Society in New York which was subsequently shown to be a propaganda center for Italian Fascism in this country.

When the Special U. S. Senate Committee investigating violations of civil liberties, labor spies and professional strike-breakers, summoned Kamp to appear for questioning in November, 1937, Kamp packed up the records of the "Constitutional Educational League" and fled West.

Kamp is heavy set, blond, in his early forties, and is author of one of the most vicious booklets against the

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nation's war effort that ever appeared in the English language—"Why Win the War, and . . . Lose What We're Fighting For?"

Published under the sponsorship of the so-called "Constitutional Educational League," Kamp's vitriolic attack upon the Administration singles out members of President Roosevelt's cabinet, among them Vice President Wallace, Ickes and Hopkins; Price Administrator Henderson, members of Donald Nelson's War Production Board and a score of other government figures working to smash Hitler.

His booklet opens with the Goebbels-like snarl:

"Why Avenge Pearl Harbor? . . . Why ignore the obvious threat to our Country's fundamental institutions, and to the War effort too, by countenancing in our positions of power and trust in WAR agencies and top WAR councils men and women (read their names in the following pages) whose records are tinged and tainted with Communism—who aided and abetted and were part and parcel of the bloody Red Conspiracy to overthrow all Governments, including our own—even an intimate of Nikolai Lenin, tin-god of modern Communists?"

"It's high time to clean house!" (All emphasis in original.—J. M.)

The slogan "Clean House" is taken from the pro-fascist Christian Front and is intended to replace the present government with a regime of defeatists and Quislings.

Government officials in charge

of America's life-and-death struggle against Hitlerism are called, among other things in Mr. Kamp's booklet "smirking smart alecks . . . magnificent misfits . . . revolutionary visionaries . . . cunning Communists . . . mystics . . . Utopian dreamers."

Among the Goebbels-like charges hurled at the Roosevelt Administration is one that the government has been making "all-out efforts to prosecute an internal class war against business and industry and wealth."

"Maybe they can't win the war against Hitler (Socialism) abroad, and the war for Communism at home, at the same time, but they're going to continue to try, just as long as they have power and influence," Kamp writes, taking over bodily the favorite arguments of Hitler's Fifth Column.

When we called to see this gentleman who has New York offices in a building in the high rent brackets, he stalled the receptionist in an outside office of the suite and said he was too busy at the moment to see anyone. When the reporter said he'd wait, Mr. Kamp changed his mind and opened his office door and reluctantly invited the reporter in.

A blond haired woman sat across the room with a pencil in her hand, apparently ready to take notes.

The following interview ensued between the Daily Worker and Kamp:

Reporter: "I dropped in to ask you a few questions, Mr. Kamp."

Kamp: "Well, if you mean an interview. . . ."

Reporter: "Yes, an interview."

Kamp: "That depends. . . ."

Reporter: "Where do you get your money to finance offices in New York, New Haven and Madison, Wis.?"

Kamp: "I don't want to be interviewed by the Daily Worker."

Reporter: "Where do you get your money for printing anti-government booklets? . . ."

Kamp: "I won't be interviewed by you or any other paper."

Reporter: "You just won't talk, is that it?"

Kamp: "Yes."

Kamp then got up indicating that he was through talking, but the reporter remained seated, addressing his following questions to the empty chair Kamp had just vacated.

"Mr. Kamp, are you for beating Hitler?"

No answer.

Reporter: "Mr. Kamp, who backs you—who are the other officials of your so-called Constitutional Educational League?"

No answer.

Reporter: "In reading your latest booklet, I notice that you quote continually from Congressman Martin Dies . . . are you a friend of Dies?"

No answer. By this time Kamp was getting mad.

The reporter got up from his chair and walked over to the door where Kamp was impatiently standing.

Reporter: "Well, off the record, Mr. Kamp, who is behind your at-

tempts to spread defeatist propaganda?"

Kamp: "I told you I have nothing to say. You came here as an investigator, not a reporter . . . we're being investigated anyhow . . ."

Reporter: "I came here as a reporter, and you have refused to answer a single question. Your silence, as far as my paper is concerned, tells the story."

Kamp's line, on the record in his latest attack against the United States war effort, except for a few pseudo-patriotic trimmings, is precisely similar to that of the Berlin propagandists.

One of the arguments of the "Constitutional Educational League" is that government "mishandling" of war production and distribution (read aid to Britain, the Soviet Union and China) has foreordained the United States to defeat in the war against the Axis.

Note the typical Nazi tinge in the following:

"But they (America's fighting forces—J. M.) will be left behind the eight-ball again, or out on a limb holding the flag and nothing more, while Marxian masterminds in our government make all-out efforts to prosecute an internal class war. . . ."

Our ally, the valiant Red Army which, has won the world's undying admiration, Kamp attacks with typical pro-fascist vileness:

"Do not let anyone fool you with the vague, sleazy argument that: 'Soviet Russia is our ally' " writes Kamp. ". . . All of us know that a treacherous 'friend' is more dan-

gerous than an open enemy and must be watched more closely. . . ."

Or, here's an example of the contemptuous, disruptive-intended language Kamp uses toward the Vice-President of the United States:

"Wallace is a star-gazing mystic whose idiotic ideology consists of a fantastic hodge-podge of Marxism, Fascism, Feudalism and Buddhism. In his speeches and writings he manifests a mania for making America over . . . into sort of a hybrid Shangri-La."

Kamp also flaunts his admixture of Goebbels and Dies mentality in his constant attacks upon labor. He lies deliberately when he writes that Walter Reuther "coined the slogan 'carry on the fight for a Soviet America.'" He resorts to the Nazi technique of "bigger and bigger lies" when he alleges that Cabinet member Hopkins once said of the American people they "are too damn dumb to understand." He calls the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union "a revolutionary propaganda movement."

This propaganda is similar to Berlin's.

Almost word for word, it is identical with the slimy attacks broadcast nightly over the Berlin radio, aimed at disrupting America's war effort.

Mr. Kamp is still doing business.

An embattled people must ask: how long will the Kamps, the Coughlins and their treacherous ilk be permitted to continue?

(The second article will reveal Kamp's activities in the past.)