

Organized Hate *Jewish*

by WILLIAM MAXWELL *Survey 10/41*

Organized Anti-Semitism in America, by Donald S. Strong, American Council on Public Affairs, Wash., D.C., 1941. Cloth \$3.00, paper, \$2.00.

DR. STRONG'S book is a survey of the rise of "group prejudice," as he calls it, in the United States during the decade 1930-40. The book is well documented and well written as far as it goes, but the trouble is it doesn't go nearly far enough into the problem of anti-Semitism in America. Having briefly sketched in the background of modern political anti-Semitism in Tsarist Russia and central Europe, its first appearance over here with the KKK and Ford campaigns of the 1920's, Dr. Strong proceeds to examine its emergence as a "100% American" mass movement in this country during the past ten years. The bulk of the book is devoted to detailed examination of eleven organizations now actively promoting anti-Semitism in America. "The skill in propaganda" of these organizations, says Dr. Strong, "is only moderate." He concludes that anti-Semitism is still a remote menace, although near, on the American political horizon.

The organizations examined by Dr. Strong are mostly of small significance. In his section on Harry Jung's Vigilante Federation of Chicago, Dr. Strong merely touches on the tie-up between anti-Semitism and reactionary big business. In his discussions of the Christian Front and other sizable American fascist outfits, Dr. Strong omits all mention of the

fact that they received their initial inspiration, propaganda material and often their financial backing from Berlin's *World Service*, key center and headquarters of world anti-Semitism today. Dr. Strong also neglects to note the subversive work of American fascism in spreading anti-Semitism among the national groups.

Dr. Strong's approach to his subject is scholarly—all too scholarly. He does not bring out with sufficient clarity that anti-Semitism is a political weapon of fascism—which means economic and political reaction—in America as well as in Germany. The fascists consciously and deliberately incite hatred against the Jewish minority in order to split the unity of democracy and steer public resentment away from the real authors of social wrongs. When they cannot use Jews for this purpose, the fascists incite hatred against Negroes, Catholics, Free Masons. They pit organized against unorganized workers, and even men against women. Anti-Semitism is not merely a "reaction" to War and Depression, as Dr. Strong says. Anti-Semitism is brought about deliberately by the same men who cause War and Depression. Anti-Semitism is the weapon of fascism which seeks to make War and Depression permanent conditions of existence for the largest majority of human kind.

Dr. Strong examines the whole problem of anti-Semitism in America during the past ten years. He finds correctly that "the anti-Semitic movement in America can no longer be treated as if it were a transient phenomenon." Even while Dr. Strong was writing his book, and dealing at length with eleven insignificant and scattered American Fascist organizations, a large scale national political movement was growing up under his nose. Dr. Strong doesn't mention it. It didn't occur to Dr. Strong that America's first Fascist party might be headed by leading American Congressmen, Senators and business men, and led by an American "hero," the ex-Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh.