

ATTACKS ON MINORITY GROUPS II

This final installment of the I. L. D. Survey of the status of Civil Rights in the U. S. A. during the first six months of 1941, is concerned with interference with the rights of religious and national minority groups. The nature of the attacks on these groups is such that makes tabulation by particular instances almost impossible. There is also the fact that few of such instances are reported in the press of the nation from which most of the information in these surveys is obtained. The material presented here is therefore limited to a few examples of violent interference with the rights of the groups mentioned.

1. Anti-Semitism

(In 1939 the Dies Committee, through no real efforts of its own, received information regarding the existence of organizations and movements devoted to fomenting and encouraging Anti-Semitism in this country. The information was contained in the testimony of Henry D. Allen, George E. Deatherage, Gen. George Van Horn Mosely and others.

In 1941, another Congressional Committee ^{received information} (Sub-committee conducting public hearings on the Marcantonio Anti-Discrimination Bill) regarding the extensive existence of anti-Semitism in the United States--in industry, government agencies, etc.

Below are listed only a few of the outstanding examples of anti-Semitism which has reached the point of violence. Our Survey does not mention such facts as the anti-Semitic antics of the Rapp-Coudert Committee or the fact that 6 of the 10 members of the N. Y. State Defense Council head firms discriminating against Jews and Negroes. Negroes: General Electric, Niagara Hudson Tower, Sperry Gyroscope, New York Central Railroad, Lehman Bros., Eastman Kodak.)

DATE and PLACE	TYPE OF INTERFERENCE
NEW YORK	
N. Y. C. June 3	Michael Kluger, 34, beaten by four members of crowd of Nazi sympathizers. Kluger had objected to their anti-Semitic utterances.
N. Y. C. N. Y. C. April-- May	Bands of anti-Semitic young men, roam streets of South Bronx terrorizing inhabitants. Stop people on streets ask if they are Jewish then proceed to beat or otherwise abuse them.
N. Y. C. February	Joseph Levy, 77, sentenced to 10 days in the workhouse because of inability to speak or understand English. Was resting in park on way to Synagogue when rounded up with several homeless men. Did not understand charge that he "was without visible means of support". Had \$18 in his pocket. Spent night in jail before family discovered his whereabouts.
N. Y. C. June	Frankel MacDonald Report covering period from 1939 to 1941 discloses such anti-Semitic activity as the dropping of unsealed anti-Semitic leaflets into United States Mail boxes. These had to be read by collecting mailmen who have the task of deciding whether or not they constitute legitimate mail. Mimeographed sheets called "STUDIES IN SHYLOCKERY" signed by a Dr. Thomas O'Roughallaigh, of the "GUILD OF CHRISTIAN POOR" St. Cloud, Minn., circulated in great numbers blaming the Spanish war on the Jews and warning the American people against a Jewish "vulture" army threatening the U. S.
N. Y. C. February	Joe McWilliams, Local Fuhrer of the American Destiny Party issues Christian Consumers Guide demanding patronage of Christian stores only and threatening violence to Christian merchants who do not wish to be associated with his enterprise.

DATE and PLACE	TYPE OF INTERFERENCE
N. Y. C. May 15	U. S. Lines spokesmen break up negotiations with representatives of National Maritime Union by insulting anti-Semitic remarks to union treasurer M. Hedley Stone.

2. Jehovah's Witnesses

(Though the widespread terror against this religious minority that marked the first six months of 1940 has somewhat diminished, interference with the civil rights of its members continues unabated. For example, in the year ending July 1941, more than 600 arrests of Jehovah's Witnesses occurred in Texas alone.)

DATE and PLACE	TYPE OF INTERFERENCE
CALIFORNIA Cajon January	San Diego County Board of Education upholds expulsion of 7 children whose parents are Jehovah's Witnesses. Children refused to salute flag.
FLORIDA Lakeland January	Two members Jehovah's Witnesses imprisoned in city stockade. Charged with selling literature without a permit.
IDAHO Moscow May	Local ordinance requiring salute to flag as condition for receiving permit to distribute literature--expressly aimed at Jehovah's Witnesses, results in several convictions. (U. S. District Court permanently enjoins enforcement)
INDIANA Connersville April	75 men, women and children, members of Jehovah's Witnesses held on charges of criminal syndicalism. Infants in arms among those charged.
NEW HAMPSHIRE Nashua, May	Roland, Lorraine and Loretta Lefebvre, children of Jehovah's Witnesses, committed to reform school following their expulsion for refusing to salute the flag. Charge: delinquency. Were imprisoned for 7 months before released by New Hampshire Supreme Court.
NEW YORK N. Y. C. Feb.	Charles Hussock, Jehovah's Witness, convicted of breach of peace. Sold sect literature at Times Square.
TEXAS Pearsall February	Mrs. Clara Beselin, Jehovah's Witness, arrested under anti-peddling ordinance after she defied warning to stay out of town.
OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City Jan.-June	Repeated arrests under ordinance aimed at Jehovah's Witnesses and prohibiting distribution of literature "casting contumelious reproach or profane ridicule upon any religion."
OHIO London Jan.-June	Repeated arrests and convictions of Witnesses under local ordinance declaring it a nuisance to enter private residences without an invitation. Intention so clear U. S. District Court enjoined its further use against Witnesses.