

# Anti-Semite Indicted In Carlson Frame-Up

## Girl Says Banta Asked Her to Help Discredit Sedition Trial Witness

An attempt to smear the character of a Government witness in the trial of the 29 alleged seditionists, and thus discredit his testimony, backfired in the face of its sponsor, Edwin Perry Banta, 73, anti-Semite and pro-Nazi. Banta, whose articles appeared in the German American Bund's *Deutscher Beobachter*, is being held in \$1500 bail on charges of conspiracy.

Banta is accused of conspiring with June Kelly, 21, of 327 W. 56th St., to bring charges of criminal attack against John Roy Carlson, author of *Under Cover*. Miss Kelly said yesterday that Banta promised such charges would "blow the sedition trial in Washington all to hell."

Banta, who at one time worked for American Women Against Communism, is described in *Under Cover* as a "confidential troubleshooter for native fascists throughout the country."

### Tells of Meeting

Miss Kelly, who knows Carlson and had offered him information on subversive organizations in New York, said she met Banta while she was investigating the Peace Now movement. Knowing of her acquaintance with Carlson, she said Banta pressed her to frame the author, whose real name is Arthur Derounian.

Miss Kelly said she refused to say Carlson attacked her, but agreed to prefer charges on attempted assault because she "wanted to play along with Banta and see what he was up to." Banta went to Police Commissioner Valentine with the story on June 16. Two days later, District Attorney Hogan says Miss Kelly visited him two days later, and said that the story was not true, that it was a frame-up against Carlson by Banta.

The District Attorney's office presented the case to the Grand Jury, which indicted Banta on charges of conspiring falsely to accuse a person of a crime. Conviction would carry a \$500 fine and a year in jail. Banta was arrested yesterday at his home, 215 E. 17th St.

According to Hogan, Banta was



John Roy Carlson

a close friend of George Sylvester Viereck, convicted Nazi agent, and a planted stooge in the Communist Party. In 1938, employed as librarian on a WPA Writers' Project, Banta turned witness for the Dies Committee.

### Came Here 4 Months Ago

Miss Kelly, who is a tall, attractive brunette, came to New York from Pennsylvania four months ago. She has worked as a telephone operator, a clerk, and once was in nurse's training. She has visited New York frequently, she said, and came here to "become a writer." However, she said, she became interested in investigating subversive organizations.

Both she and Banta have sold information to the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League.

A League spokesman yesterday said:

"Catching a big bad man often involves getting information from a little bad man.

"Several weeks ago the League received inquiries as to Banta's attempt to involve Mr. Carlson, whose exposes of seditions efforts are well known, and against whom Banta is said to have held a personal grudge. The League at that time informed Mr. Carlson, through his associates, of what appeared to be the case, and Mr. Carlson was then in contact with the law-enforcement agencies. The name of the young lady mentioned by Mr. Hogan, Miss Kelly, has been closely linked with that of Joseph McWilliams, sedition trial defendant, repeatedly exposed by the Anti-Nazi League in preceding years."

Miss Kelly said yesterday that she and McWilliams were not "close friends, but I knew him."

"I'm for democracy and I've been against McWilliams since the war," she said.

### Book

Miss Kelly also said Banta told her he was getting ready to expose the B'nai B'rith in a book called *The Jew Gestapo in the United States*.

"I want the public to know this story," Miss Kelly said in reference to the alleged frame-up, "because many people have made vicious totally unjustified attacks on Mr. Carlson. I want everyone to know that this frame-up is a frame-up."

Banta has pleaded not guilty to the charges. He refused to see reporters yesterday in his cell.

Banta, in April, was volunteer officer manager of the Protestant Chaplains Assn., an organization set up by Edward James Smythe, sedition defendant. Smythe, by printing impressive letterheads, succeeded in getting nearly 100 Representatives (Senators, governors and mayors to sponsor his idea of a "Day of Prayer for the Republic."

Carlson refused to discuss the matter yesterday. He said:

"The case is now in the hands of the District Attorney. There is nothing for me to say."