

WWeek 8/23/41

# HE PEDDLES APPEASEMENT

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North Carolina's Tarheel Fuehrer, 57-year-old Senator Robert Rice Reynolds, will have a fifth matrimonial venture, it was announced in Washington last week. The bride-to-be is 20-year-old Evalyn Walsh McLean, heiress to one of the great American fortunes and now struggling along on an \$80,000 a year allowance.

Senator Reynolds, who is chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, took time out of the felicitations to comment on the international situation. He wanted to know why the United States and Britain "don't start right now imposing the four freedoms on India, Russia, and other places," and snorted:



"I'm not going to vote one penny for aid to Russia."

Pink cheeked, tightly tailored "Bob" is a globe trotter who regularly assures North Carolina voters that he studies "world conditions" in order to serve the home folks better.

Through the medium of the Congressional Record he told his constituents not so many years gone by:

"Mussolini is not sticking his nose in the business of other countries of the world. Mussolini is thinking about the Italians; and the dictators are doing what is best for their people. I say it is high time we find out how they are doing it, and why they are progressing so rapidly."

And again, "What is Hitler doing?" Reynolds would

demand, and then would answer: "He is looking after the people of Germany. . . What ought Uncle Sam to do? God bless Uncle Sam. I love him and you love him, Senators. But I want him to come home. He has been wandering over the face of the earth, trying to police the earth." Etc., etc.

The V for Victory campaign is not popular with the jovial Senator, whose private V stands for Vindicators, "an association of Patriotic Americans" which bars Jews from membership and is pledged to send all aliens "back where they came from." When he founded the Vindicators in January 1939, Reynolds pledged that by 1940 it would have a million members representing every American city over 3,000. No membership figures have been made public, nor is the circulation of the propaganda newsheet, the *American Vindicator*, known.

What is known, however, is the close tie between Reynolds and Father Coughlin. The Senator once made a speech in the Senate, asserting that the real aggressors are not the dictatorships but the democracies of the world. He made the mistake of revealing that the source of his material was a book, *Name the Aggressors*, by Coughlin's Washington contact man, Louis B. Ward.

Among Reynolds' friends are George Deatherage, leader of the openly fascist, anti-Semitic Knights of the White Camellia, John B. Trevor, head of the American Coalition, a super-holding company for more than 125 "patriotic" organizations, William Dudley Pelley of the pro-Nazi Silver Shirts, and William Randolph Hearst.

Reynolds, who was born in Buncombe County, has sold patent medicines, panhandled, barked at carnival sideshows and been a professional wrestler.

He is now selling appeasement to the American people.

Miss McLean, who will some day inherit from her mother the fabulous and reputedly unlucky Hope Diamond, told reporters: "The Senator and I have the same interests and the same likes."