

107 from Jack Linn - May 25, 1939

DEATHERAGE TELLS OF REICH REBUFFS

Jack Linn
Coast Consul Cold, He Says, and Embassy Attache Proved a Discouraging Informant
May 25, 1939
LATTER MADE COMPARISON

Noting More Anti-Semitism Here Now Than in Pre-Hitler Germany

SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES.
WASHINGTON, May 24.—The German embassy, on two occasions, refused to give any aid or assistance whatever to a proposed organization to be founded on Nazi-like principles, George Deatherage, head of the Knights of White Camellia, testified today before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Persistent questioning by Representative Dies of Texas, its chairman, failed to swerve him from his categorical statement.

The first time he consulted the German diplomatic establishment in this country, Mr. Deatherage said, he went some time last year to see Baron Manfred von Killinger, then German Consul General in San Francisco, to get information about

fire," Mr. Deatherage said at one point. "In my opinion there's a planned campaign to turn this country into a soviet." He added that the "Communist movement all over the world is hooked up with Jewish finance."

When Mr. Deatherage said he believed that "this Administration is communistically inclined and heading in that direction," Mr. Dies interrupted him to say:

"That is merely your opinion."

Bating Aim of Confederation

The American National Confederation, Mr. Deatherage stated, was merely a "letterhead organization." With the swastika as its emblem, it was self-described as a Fascist party, its literature spoke of "Jewocracy, alias Democracy" and its platform calls for the confiscation of "illegal hoardings of international bankers," he testified, only to bring out those he wanted to be able to recognize as his enemies.

The organization met with little response, he conceded. It came into

half-hearted contacts with groups, among which he listed the following: the Militant Christian Patriots of Los Angeles, the American Women Against Communism, the Silver Shirts Organization, William Dudley Feyer, American Liberty Party, F. W. Clark's National Liberty Party, E. N. Sencituary, the American Rangers, the American Guard, the Constitutional Crusaders of America, Donald Shea's Youth League and Mrs. Frey's Christian Free Press.

He also mentioned contacts with individuals, including the Rev. Gerald Winrod, Robert E. Edmondson, Mrs. Jewett of California and James True.

An Invention Is Described

Mr. Deatherage drew laughter from the spectators when he described an invention which James True patented and which John Spivak, in The Daily Worker, characterized as a "kike killer."

The witness said that the device was a sort of baton about three feet long with knobs and notches

along its length. He said that he had seen the device in the hands of several individuals in New York City.

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The testimony of these men was that General Moseley had cooperated with their plan for a large-scale movement to be organized with Moseley as the leader.

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Noting More Anti-Communism Here Now Than in Pre-Hitler Germany

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The first time he consulted the German diplomatic establishment in this country, Mr. Deatherage said, he went some time last year to see Baron Manfred von Killinger, then German Consul General in San Francisco, to get information about Ernst Toller, the German liberal who committed suicide in New York on Monday.

Whether the information about Mr. Toller was forthcoming was not made clear, but Mr. Deatherage told the committee that the Consul General "was very explicit that if there should be a movement in this country, it would have to be an American movement."

Embassy Refused to Embassy

Mr. Deatherage said that he went to the German Embassy in Washington about three months ago to get information about the organization. He found himself in its early days. After having been shunted about from official to official for an hour and gazed at through "a little round hole in the door—like buying whiskey in a speakeasy," he was finally received by Ulrich Freiherr von Gienanth, attaché in charge of public relations.

He found Freiherr von Gienanth "very reticent" and even "suspicious," Mr. Deatherage said. He discussed with the attaché his own work in the Knights of the White Camellia and the projected American nationalist confederation which he then had in view as an amalgamation of all the anti-Communist organizations in the country.

At a point in their conversation, Mr. Deatherage testified, he asked the attaché what he thought of anti-Communist sentiment in the United States. The attaché's reply according to his testimony was that from what he could read and observe, it appeared to be more anti-Communist in the United States than it was in Germany before Hitler took power.

Mr. Deatherage also said that Mr. Freiherr von Gienanth had told him that the German American Bund was causing lots of trouble and that it did not appear to approve of the organization.

German Report Discouraging

His reports on early Nazi financial reports were discouraging, Mr. Deatherage said, quoting the attaché to the effect that the first members of the party set themselves up in a brewery, pooled what money they had, bought their food out of it and spent the small remainder on publishing pamphlets. These they distributed by hand and raised a little

Mr. Deatherage has tried these methods at the headquarters of the Knights of the White Camellia in his own house at St. Albans, Wash., D. C. Mr. Deatherage understood their limitations. To his disappointment, he was told that the Nationalists and monied people in Germany would not contribute until about six months before Hitler's first electoral victory, notably in 1930, "and then they jumped on the band wagon."

Mr. Deatherage was the only witness examined today. At times the witness had the air of a revivalist as Mr. Dies would exhort him to mend his ways, to stop spreading hate gospels and Communist reports through the country, and Mr. Deatherage would plead with the chairman to take a practical view of matters.

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