

(Extension of Remarks of Hon. Adolph J. Sabath of Illinois in the House of Representatives, Friday, February 17, 1939, Congressional Record, pp. 2237-2238)

February 13, 1939

Mr. Walter S. Steele
National Republic
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

In your letter of February 6, 1939, you state that Congressman Marcantonio charged you before the Rules Committee with membership in the Silver Shirts; and further implied that you are a "Nazi or Fascist engaged in anti-Semitic activities in this country." In your denial of these alleged charges you claim that they are Communist-inspired and that anyone making them is "echoing Communist lies."

Congressman Marcantonio, when he appeared before the Rules Committee on February 2, quoted from your testimony before the Dies Committee to the effect that you "had never been connected with any such organization" as the Silver Shirts; and, further, that you "have absolutely no respect for the Silver Shirts or any other such movement" (vol. 1, page 309 of the hearings).

It was Congressman Marcantonio's contention before the committee that in making the above statements under oath you perjured yourself. The Congressman based his contention on a number of facts which he related to the Rules Committee, and which he repeated thereafter in a speech which appeared in the Congressional Record of February 3, 1939.

In reference to your denial of Silver Shirt connections, Congressman Marcantonio produced a series of newspaper articles from the Cleveland Press, running from July 30 to August 12, 1937, which related to the activities of the Silver Shirts in the city of Cleveland. In par-

ticular the articles expose the activities of one Elsie Theur, alias Susan Sterling, who is named as head of the master council of Silver Shirts in Cleveland.

The first article, dated July 30, states that the Press reporters first interview with Susan Sterling took place in the presence of one Charles A. Kennedy, who is identified as the Cleveland representative and associate editor of the National Republic. The article reports that Mr. Kennedy constantly answered questions for Miss Sterling when the latter appeared hesitant for an answer, and thus proved himself to be intimately conversant with the subject under discussion, namely, the Silver Shirt activities of Susan Sterling.

Further articles in the same series discuss the role of one Dr. Doron, who, according to Miss Sterling, was president of the Cleveland Silver Shirts, and reveal the presence in Dr. Doron's offices of a complete file of the National Republic. Your magazine apparently met with their unstinted approval, for Mrs. Doron praised it in these terms: "This is a magazine you ought to read. It prints the truth. I wouldn't swap it for all the Cleveland Presses in the world." The Silver Shirt leader's wife spoke highly also of Associate Editor Kennedy for the "wonderful work he was doing in the Cleveland schools."

In connection with this latter phase of activity, Congressman Marcantonio pointed out that the National Republic is sent free and unsolicited to school teachers throughout the country in what is apparently an attempt to propagandize and influence the educators of our American children.

The articles in the Cleveland Press which link up your Cleveland representative and your magazine with the Silver Shirts are borne out by a letter produced by William Miller, the Press reporter, and addressed

to you by Susan Sterling. The letter is as follows: "Am having an interview with the officials of Republic Steel tomorrow. If you are interested, I can furnish data to you." (Arnold Gingrich's testimony before the Dies Committee showed conclusively that Susan Sterling and other Silver Shirt leaders were constantly in touch with officials of Republic Steel, including Tom Girdler.)

Proof of complicity between the officials of a great steel company and the leaders of so notoriously un-American and subversive an organization as the Silver Shirts is something not likely to be revealed to an unsympathetic bystander, particularly when the latter is an editor who could spread such proof far and wide if he so chose. The existence of this letter, addressed to you by a leader of the Silver Shirts, certainly points to sympathy on your part with the aims and activities of this pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic organization.

Further substantiation of your having maintained connections with the Silver Shirts is contained in a telegram which was read into the record by Congressman Marcantonio when he appeared before the Rules Committee. The telegram was dated February 2 and signed by William Miller, the Cleveland Press reporter whose articles were mentioned above. Mr. Miller's telegram states, in part: "The National Republic * * * a publication which no Silver Shirt I interviewed had been without; it was, next to their violent animosity toward the Jews, perhaps the most identifying characteristic of them all. * * * The Cleveland correspondent of this magazine, Mr. Charles A. Kennedy, was one of the closest associates of Susan Sterling, and Miss Sterling also enjoyed the most cordial relationship with Walter Steele, of Washington, the managing editor of this magazine. * * * Had Mr. Dies actually wanted to investigate the activities of Susan Sterling, he could have found no better source than the files of his own witness, Walter Steele, to whom she wrote constantly, confiding

to him everything that she was doing to help him in "sending out vibrations of true Americanism to all those eager for authentic information."

In further corroboration of the cordial relations obtaining between the Silver Shirts and the National Republic is the unchallenged affidavit of Miss Barbara Baker, the witness whose willful testimony the Dies committee refused, in effect, to hear. Miss Baker, who served Susan Sterling for 10 months as personal secretary, swore in her affidavit that the National Republic is "the bible" of the Cleveland Silver Shirts, along with Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling's Red Network. Miss Baker relates that your Cleveland representative, Mr. Kennedy, was among the guests at a banquet arranged by Susan Sterling in honor of Mrs. Dilling, and that among the other guests was Spencer Warwick, Ohio commander of the Silver Shirts. At the dinner, Mrs. Dilling, in customary vein, attacked what she termed the "Roosevelt 'red' government" and praised Hitler and Mussolini as "great men" and "saviors of their countries."

All of these facts, which surely cannot be dismissed as "Communist lies" were offered by Congressman Marcantonio in proof of your connections with the Silver Shirts and in refutation of your statement under oath that you had "never been connected with any such organization."

In your appearance before the Dies Committee you stated (vol. 1, page 310, of the hearings): "I have absolutely no respect for the Silver Shirts or any other such movement, and I want that understood here today." In your letter of February 6, 1939, addressed to me as chairman of the Rules Committee, you deny that you have ever been "engaged in anti-Semitic activities in this country."

As the self-proclaimed spokesman for the American Coalition, which you publicly represented before the Dies Committee, it is certainly true that you are engaged in and have "respect" for the activities and program of the organization and its affiliates.

One need look no further than the president of the American Coalition, John B. Trevor, for an example of pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic activities with which you are publicly connected. Mr. Trevor serves the cause of Nazi-ism and anti-Semitism through his position as head of the American section of the so-called International Committee to Combat the World Menace of Communism, an organization which conceals behind its typical Nazi-camouflaged title its real function as a Berlin-inspired and foreign-dominated Nazi International, operating as a "front" for Hitler's subversive machinations within the world's democracies.

Again, in one of the American coalition's founders one finds a notorious leader among Nazi propagandists in the United States - George Sylvester Viereck, revealed by the McCormack committee as a paid Nazi agitator, an "admirer of Hitler," and a "friend of the New Germany."

In your role as spokesman for the American coalition you publicly represented, in addition to Mr. Trevor and Mr. Viereck, one of the most sinister of anti-Semitic and subversive organizations in the United States, the American Vigilant Intelligence Federation. Before the Rules Committee, Congressman Marcantonio quoted as follows from the McCormack committee report: "Harry A. Jung and the A.V.I.F. had published and circulated great masses of literature tending to incite racial and religious intolerance." He listed, furthermore, a number of pamphlets of an avowed anti-Semitic character which Jung wrote or distributed, among them the thoroughly discredited forgery, the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. In addition, he quoted a letter to the Honorable Henry T. Rainey, late Speaker of the House of Representatives, which establishes Jung as a labor spy and strikebreaker "who does the slimy, stool-pigeon work necessary for the purpose of destroying organized labor."

The American Vigilant Intelligence Federation was among the organizations you claimed to represent in the list you presented to

education." The author of that article, Col. Edwin Marshall Hadley, is also the author, under the pseudonym of Harrold Sincere, of two anti-Semitic pamphlets called Facing the Facts and The Plan in Action. Under his own name Colonel Hadley wrote another widely distributed pamphlet called "Baps of the Republic," which is a scurrilous attack on the Roosevelt administration. It appears, then, that anti-Semitism is synonymous with "constructive education" in the vocabulary of the National Republic.

The National Republic's approval of the Paul Reveres is carried further by your presence on the advisory board of the organization, where you join one of the Nation's most notorious anti-Semites, Col. E.M. Sanctuary. Colonel Sanctuary, besides heading his own pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic group, the American Christian Defenders, is also eastern representative of Harry A. Jung and the American Vigilant Intelligence Federation. You are probably aware that your co-board member, Sanctuary, is an associate of the most vicious and criminal anti-Semites in America - such men as Robert Edward Edmondson and James Tree. And behind all these is the high priestess of the native Nazi movement in America, Mrs. Elizabeth Billing, who founded the Paul Reveres. Surely it is undeniable that the Paul Reveres are of the same stripe as the Silver Shirts and the American Vigilant Intelligence Federation.

The assembled facts show that you are indeed, as Congressman Marcan-tonio charged and as Congressman Heller agreed, closely identified with "the most dangerous, undemocratic, un-American, and subversive groups in the United States."

Your proven intimacy with Silver Shirt leaders, your public role as spokesman for and, in one case at least, an advisor to subversive and anti-Semitic organizations combine to uphold Congressman Marcan-tonio's contention that your sworn statements before the Dies Committee, as previously quoted, are open to more than considerable doubt. On the other hand

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you have chosen to answer his facts with a blanket denial, which consists of nothing more than an attempt to brand them as "Communist lies."

I call to your attention that the law specifically provides that a letter is the exclusive property of the sender. I give you permission to print this letter, with the distinct understanding that, if printed, it be printed in full.

Very truly yours,

A.J. SARATH