

Checking Native Nazis

by RICHARD HARRISON



SIGNS are multiplying that the American people and government are being aroused to their full power against Nazis abroad and Nazifiers at home.

America won a round against its Quislings last month when Congress, despite a barrage of telegrams from America First Committee chapters, ended the farce of the Neutrality Act. The Quislings themselves were feeling the might of an awakening democracy as federal and state agencies finally undertook action against several tin soldier "fuehrers" in this country.

William Dudley Pelley, who claims that he once paid a visit to Heaven during a lapse of consciousness, is now living in less celestial accommodations in the Asheville, North Carolina, jail. Pelley, known as the "Chief" to his Silver Shirt followers, faces a possible long term in the North Carolina penitentiary for sale of bogus securities in connection with his "Galahad Press" and "Galahad University." The fallen "Chief" had unsuccessfully fought extradition from Indiana, where he had moved his business, before the U. S. Supreme Court. His Washington attorney, T. Edward O'Connell, pleaded during the proceedings that attempt was being made "to take Pelley back to the chain gang which was designed for Negroes and Yankees."

Charles A. McMillan, leader of the American Christian League in Philadelphia, was arrested on two counts: suspicion of obtaining money under false pretenses and failure to secure a state permit before soliciting funds to put over his program of squelching the Jews. A Philadelphia correspondent of THE JEWISH SURVEY wrote: "William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania and of Philadelphia would have approved this action. Pennsylvania pioneered in establishing religious freedom."

George Hill, secretary to appeasement Congressman Hamilton Fish of New York, and America's Number 1 Nazi propagandist, George Sylvester Viereck, may continue as cellmates their recent association in Washington. Hill is under indictment on a perjury charge growing out of misuse of the congressional franking privilege to send pro-Nazi propaganda through the mails. The same grand jury has indicted Viereck for failure to register as agent for a foreign power.

Fish, himself, has not only refused to fire Hill from his secretarial job but has issued a public statement defending his employee. The Congressman, who took a joyride over Europe in Herr Von Ribbentrop's personal plane during 1939, is

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also wanted by the grand jury to tell what he knows about the use of the frank.

These things were on the credit side of democracy. In addition, the House by a close vote of 167 to 141 defeated the Hobbs Concentration Camp Bill which might have imprisoned for life aliens who had ever belonged to any labor organization or even a *landsmanschaft* considered "subversive" by agencies like the Dies Committee.

The *Herald*, rabidly anti-Semitic paper recently launched by the publishers of *Scribner's Commentator* in the "No Jews Allowed" resort town of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, has suspended publication. Flanders Hall publishing house in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, registered with the State Department as a foreign government agent, had also closed down following indictment of its financial angel, Viereck. Meanwhile, three executives of *Scribner's Commentator*—Editor George T. Eggleston, Publisher Douglas M. Stewart, and Sales and Promotion Manager Bessie Feagin, were also being quizzed by the Washington grand jury investigating sources of Nazi propaganda. Miss Feagin believes that the fewer words the better in this "jam." Her favorite answer to the grand jury was "I can't recall."

On the debit side of democracy, pro-Nazi and near-Nazi organizations were intensifying their efforts to sabotage all American assistance to Britain and Russia in the fight for democracy. Frank Ryhlick, Washington correspondent of *U. S. Week*, reported in the November 22 issue of that publication that the close vote on partial repeal of the Neutrality Act "indicated one of the best organized Nazi propaganda campaigns ever conducted in this country." Ryhlick pointed out that Congressman Fish was "chief strategist of the opposition to the administration." Speaking of the two perjury charges against the Congressman's secretary, Hill, Ryhlick revealed: "And it can be stated authoritatively that special Government prosecutors in charge of the investigation (of Nazi propaganda sources) have evidence connecting the secretaries of 20 other Congressmen and four Senators with the same plot."

Abuse of the franking privilege to send out Nazi propaganda had become so flagrant that a pro-Lindbergh California organization calling itself "The National Copperheads" was caught using the frank of the dead Minnesota Senator ~~Ernest Lundeen~~. A probe of this organization by postal authorities has been asked by the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League.

Southern members of Congress, who like neither Negroes nor labor unions, were trying to take advantage of the strike situation in the captive coal mines to clamp down repressive anti-labor legislation. The CIO national convention in Detroit voted enthusiastically to support President Roosevelt's foreign policy through all-out production.

While Hitler's legions drove toward the rich Caucasian oil fields of Russia, America's national defense was being deprived of the services of hundreds of thousands of capable Negro and other workers barred from employment by Hitler-like "racial policies." Hearings have been held on Congressman Vito Marcantonio's bill (HR 3994) to penalize unfair employment practices by fines of \$35,000, but no vote has been taken.

A small percentage of Negroes have been employed in the metal and aircraft trades following pressure from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice. But a special bulletin, "Negro Workers and the Defense Program," issued by the Social Security Board, found that artificial "labor shortages" in many defense areas would vanish if Negroes were employed.

The America First Committee took its first flier in politics by organizing the "American Party" in Indianapolis. Former Governor Phillip La Follette, of Wisconsin, brother of appeasement Senator Robert La Follette, Jr., was the keynote speaker at the convention of the new "party." The convention followed by a week a conference of America First in Washington—participated in by chapter heads, by Senators Taft, Wheeler, Aiken, and Nye plus appeasement Representatives Mundt and Day. Congressman Day, author of the anti-British diatribe, "We Must Save the Republic," published by Flanders Hall, was guest of honor at the America First rally held in Madison Square Garden, New York, on October 30.

It became increasingly evident that the destruction of the budding American fascist movement must be accomplished by destruction of its head—America First.

Said Professor James H. Sheldon, Christian chairman of the board of directors of the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League, speaking before the Jewish War Veterans National Convention in Buffalo: "The America First Committee is nothing more or less than a highly camouflaged front for the dissemination of the Nazi line in America. The America First Committee must be destroyed just as Adolf Hitler must be destroyed."