

U. S. Launches Counterespionage Drive Against Fifth Column and Other 'Borers From Within' in Country



America, fifth-column conscious since the Nazi invasion of Norway and the Low Countries, has turned attention to espionage work within its own borders. Through the Justice Department's Federal Bureau of Investigation (J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the bureau, is pictured at right) the Government is keeping its finger on aliens in the Nation by means of counterespionage operations. The un-American activities committee of Representative Martin Dies (left) has thrown light on subversive groups in the United States.



5th Column Fears Grow In Americas

Argentina, Brazil And Uruguay Having Trouble With Pro-Nazis

BUENOS AIRES—Fears of potential "fifth column" forces is spreading throughout the South American republics, particularly Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, where manifestations of organized foreign sympathy have been increasing.

In Argentina, as elsewhere in South America, the bulk of the popular sympathy was with the Allies when war began last September. Here in Buenos Aires a street crowd cheered when workmen removed a German sign from the window of the city's principal foreign-operated pharmacy.

But there was considerable pro-Nazi and pro-Fascist sentiment here. In Argentina this was exemplified mainly by the Nationalist Youth Alliance, which today is a leading cause for official anxiety. Recently it attempted a demonstration which spilled in Europe, Eupen, Malmédy, Belgium was given a share in the the victory thrust. Last Tuesday colonies. In the Treaty of Versailles, new weapon, held in reserve for frontiers, helped occupy the German

By William Pinkerton
Associated Press Staff Writer.

Government leaders, convinced that the "fifth columns" of Europe are abroad in this

has used or is prepared to use against 'fifth column' activities.

"The duty of the Government, under the circumstances, is to know who are the members of the bund, the Communist Party and other organizations of that kind."

or as a "cause" for war—much as the Nazi did in Austria.

But true effectiveness depends upon throwing the public authorities off guard. A man who walks freely into the front gates of an

membership of the Party (like the membership of the Bund) is secret.

As to the history of this movement, the Dies Committee had this to say:

"Up until the year 1934, the Com-

gated the Bund have charged, in the same way, that Bund members secured work in aviation factories and other vital industries.

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attempts a demonstration which spilled in Europe, Eupen, Malmédy, Belgium was given a share in the the victory thrust. Last Tuesday colonies. In the Treaty of Versailles, new weapon, held in reserve for frontiers, helped occupy the German

land of the free, have thrown the power of the G-Men against the potential menace from within.

The crime-fighters who broke the kidnap racket and made bank robbing unhealthy have trained their sights on the breeding-spot of treason.

Insiders say the Government knows who the "fifth columnists" are; if the time comes to strike them down, it will move quickly.

Six days after war broke out in Europe last fall, President Roosevelt instructed the Federal Bureau of Investigation "to take charge of investigative work in matters relating to espionage, sabotage and violations of neutrality regulations."

J. Edgar Hoover already had started re-training his sleuths for counterespionage work. With an expanded force of G-Men recruited from the law schools, he called on police and sheriffs to cooperate.

For months the work went on quietly while the flood of "tip" letters—ranging from 150 to 250 a day—measured the state of the public mind.

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Jackson Defines 'Fifth Column'

Jackson defined the "fifth column" thus:

1. Saboteurs, or persons preparing to commit sabotage. In other words, those seeking to destroy property useful to national defense.

2. Spies, seeking either military or industrial secrets.

3. "Representatives or foreign governments or foreign political parties by which the attempt is made to influence American policy on behalf of foreign governments."

These are the peace-time signs of the "fifth column."

In event of military attack on America, alien agents and domestic traitors might be expected to play an even more sinister role—if the lessons of Europe have meaning for America.

Perhaps a part of the "fifth column" is out in the open, as the Dies Committee to investigate un-American activities has charged. This group of Representatives has linked the Communist Party of the United States with the Communist International in Moscow, and the Amerika-Deutscher Volksbund (better known as the German-American Bund) with the Third Reich of Germany.

Neither the Communist Party nor the Bund ever has admitted political or financial connection with the Russian or German Governments. Both have refused to register as agents of foreign principals at the State Department.

But disgruntled Communist "confederates" have sworn that American dollars flowed into Russia through "The Party," and that officials of the American Communist group paid purposeful visits to Moscow.

Earl Browder, the Kansas comrade who was secretary of "The Party" until he went to jail for passport frauds, declared last September that "so far as the political essences are concerned, the Communist Party of the United States and the Communist International are in absolute harmony."

Leaderless, Both Still Exist

In the same way, visitors to Bund camps have told tales of Hitler-heiling and talk of German greatness. Fritz Kuhn, fuhrer of the Bund until he went to jail for grand larceny of Bund funds, himself told of handing \$3,000 to Adolf Hitler in 1936 for the Nazi's winter relief fund.

Kuhn has denied repeatedly that he desires a Nazi Government for

airplane factory as an honest worker might be more effective at sabotage than a man who must sneak past alert guards in the night.

Membership Lists Of Both Are Secret

Whether this circumstance has any relation to the policies of the Party and the Bund, testimony has been given that both have sought to "bore from within"—to place their members in a position to cajole or command the help of unsuspecting Americans.

Thus, the Communist Party has been accused of sending agents trained for leadership into labor unions. How successful the Communists may have been in such efforts to get control of vital unions is a matter of debate.

Critics have charged that the Communists sought union influence especially in industries vital to national defense—such as shipping, steel, automobile and communications.

It is not easy to pin the Red label on a man, however, since the

Communist Party pursued the policy of setting up rival labor organizations in the same industries as were organized by affiliates of the American Federation of Labor. In that year the attempt was made by Communists to bore from within the A. F. of L. On the whole this effort met with but slight success.

"With the formation of the C. I. O., the principal efforts of the Communists were turned in the direction of that organization. It is unmistakably clear that the overwhelming majority of the members of the C. I. O., as well as the President, are not Communists or Communist sympathizers, but sincere American workers seeking to improve their lot in life. . . .

The evidence before the committee indicates, however, that the leadership of some 10 or 12 of the constituent unions of the C. I. O. is more than tinged with Communism. . . . in the rank and file membership of these unions, the proportion of Communists and Communist sympathizers is very small indeed."

Some persons who have investi-

Defense Put on Agenda Of Governors' Conference

Duluth, Minn., June 1 (AP).—Echoes of European warfare and advance rumblings of the national election campaign today threatened to drown out the prepared chorus at the National Governors' Conference opening here tomorrow night.

As the State chieftains begin arriving for the four-day session, a couple of items that were not on the regular program loomed large in the spotlight.

One was President Roosevelt's recommendation that the Governors give some thought to the military defenses of the United States.

The official conference program contained no reference to the international situation, but Gov. Lloyd C. Stark, of Missouri, chairman of the conference executive committee, said Thursday night he would "bring the matter" of national defense before the group Monday. Stark conferred with Mr. Roosevelt shortly before the President made his suggestion to the conference.

For the Republicans, the conference promised to bring some important backstage activity centering around the National Republican convention at Philadelphia late this month.

Gov. Harold E. Stassen, Minnesota's youthful chief executive, is to be temporary chairman and key-note at the national convention,

gia, "The Problem of Taxation and the Problem of Relief." Gov. Stassen, Gov. William H. Vanderbilt, of Rhode Island, and Gov. Homer A. Holt, of West Virginia, will give the speeches at a conference dinner Monday night.

The conference will move to the Minnesota iron range Tuesday, with an executive session aboard a special train en route to Ely that morning. At a luncheon at a summer resort near Ely, Gov. Prentice Cooper, of Tennessee, will be the speaker.

Tuesday afternoon the party will go to Virginia, Minn., and then to Hibbing, where the Governors will tour the world's largest open pit iron mine, then be guests of iron range chambers of commerce at a dinner and ice show. Govs. Stassen, Stark and Harlan J. Bushfield, the latter of South Dakota, will speak at the dinner.

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that most of the Bund's 71 admitted units were located in an area containing 90 per cent of the United States munitions industry, Representative Starnes (Democrat), of Alabama, asked:

"There is no significance that most of your posts are located near Navy yards, aircraft factories or other industries?"

"I don't know anything about industries," declared Kuhn, who had worked eight years as a chemical engineer in the Ford Motor Co.

Both groups have been accused of recruiting in the ranks of the Army and Navy. Military officials have dismissed, quickly and quietly, known Communists and Bundsmen as unfit for service.

The "Front" is another tactic which critics have assigned alike to the Party and the Bund.

The theory behind the "Front" is that persons who would not knowingly lend their support to a foreign ideology may be tricked into serving its purposes.

The "party line" of Communism long has demanded that a "class" wedge be driven between workers and their employers. During the thirties—when the "popular front" still was popular in Moscow—reputed Communists figured prominently in groups whose primary aims ostensibly were defense of "democracy" and "peace" against "Fascism" and "capitalist imperialism."

In the same manner, the Bund—according to Dies—"worked sympathetically" with agencies advocating American Fascism or spreading hatred of Jews under "patriot," "Christian" and "nationalist" slogans. This "cooperation" included exchange of literature and advice.

Some Americans of Italian descent have been organized into groups of Fascist sympathizers. Peoples of other races—like the Ukrainians and the White Russians have been organized—so the Dies

was to have been featured by the burning of a British flag and a demand that Foreign Minister Jose Cantilo resign because of his recent suggestion that Argentina adopt a policy of "nonbelligerency" to replace its neutrality policy. The police stopped the demonstration.

The Cantilo suggestion was attacked by the pro-Nazis as a move in favor of Great Britain, and in British circles here the hope has been expressed that the Foreign Minister's statement might be the first step toward Argentine involvement on the side of Britain. So far, however, Argentina has shown no intention of becoming involved.

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Young Men, Women Flaunt Swastikas

In ultra-British Hurlingham young men and women flaunt swastika decorations and in Posadas, in the state of Misiones just across the border from Brazil's German colonies in Santa Catharina, "fifth column" activities have been reported by the newspaper Critica.

An investigation by the Argentine Department of Immigration into immigrant smuggling disclosed that 10,000 Germans were supposed to have entered the republic illegally since January, 1939. The usual method of the illegal immigrants is to arrive as "tourist" at Montevideo, Uruguay, and promptly get "lost."

One of the most puzzling developments recently was the voluntary return of ten sailors from the scuttled German pocket battleship Graf Spee to the internment camp from which they had escaped. Many persons believe they were officially ordered to surrender and wonder where the orders came from.

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"Enemy parachutists in America will regret the day they first drew breath."

In Johnstown, Pa., police got a spy "tip" that a man was having his hair dyed. Rushing to the barber shop, they learned he "was just getting a few of the gray ones touched up."

In factory-studded Pittsburgh, the Post-Gazette reported that special guards were being assigned to bridgeheads and tunnels near the great steel, aircraft and munitions plants of "the workshop of the world."

These scattered events—and many more—were indexes of America's sudden awakening to a danger which many felt was none too remote.

In Washington, officials steadied their counterespionage forces for increased work. Administration spokesmen made it clear that they were aware of the danger. At the same time, they sought to assure the public that every precaution would be taken to protect the innocent citizen unjustly accused.

Attorney General Jackson—the man who, in wartime, would be responsible for internal order in the Nation—declared:

"It is obvious that the Department of Justice cannot and should not reveal its information, or the nature of the measures it has taken or is taking, or the precautions it

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Kuhn has denied repeatedly that he desires a Nazi Government for the United States but has acknowledged a lusty admiration for Hitler and his National Socialist State. Kuhn made no public protest when a Bund organ called him "America's Henlein," thus linking his name with the man who led the Nazi "Sudeten" movement in Czechoslovakia.

There are no indications that either group has wilted and died because of their leaders' residence in jails.

But the Dies Committee—pointing out that the Communists had sought to lead an "anti-Fascist" movement while the Bund was seeking an "anti-Communist" following—reported laconically that:

"With the signing of the Soviet-Nazi pact, these movements have been severely crippled and this tactic is far less effective than formerly."

The effectiveness of such semi-public organizations under war conditions is drastically limited, political observers declare. They might serve as political "pressure groups"

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Gov. Harold E. Stassen, Minnesota's youthful chief executive, is to be temporary chairman and keynoter at the national convention, and he has said freely that he will look to the Republican Governors attending the conference here for some suggestions and information before he writes the keynote speech.

The conference opens Sunday night with a reception, and gets down to its serious business Monday morning, with Gov. Stark presiding over the first session.

Talks scheduled on the morning program are by Gov. James H. Price, of Virginia, "Financial Planning and Budget Administration;" Gov. John W. Bricker, of Ohio, "Organization and Operation of Public Services," and Gov. Leverett Saltonstall, Massachusetts, "History of the Massachusetts Conciliation and Arbitration Board."

Monday afternoon Gov. George A. Wilson, Iowa, will preside over a session on relief problems, which will include a talk by Gov. Charles A. Sprague, of Oregon, "Organization and Administration of Relief,"

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Returning to Duluth, the conference will resume its business sessions Wednesday morning, with Gov. William D. Leahy, of Puerto Rico, presiding. Gov. George D. Aiken, Vermont, and Gov. M. Clifford Townsend, Indiana, will lead a discussion of State development through land utilization, and Gov. Raymond E. Baldwin, Connecticut, will speak on "The State and Its Cities."

Gov. John Moses, of North Dakota, will preside over the final afternoon session, which will include talks by Gov. Paul B. Johnson, Mississippi, "The Wages and Hours Law and State Labor Standards," and Gov. Robert L. Cochran, Nebraska, "Eliminating Trade Barriers."

The conference will wind up Wednesday night with a state dinner at which each of the 25 Governors expected to attend will speak.

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The principle of "divide and conquer" has proved effective in Europe. In Czech-Slovakia, for instance, the government was attacked at once by domestic Nazis and by nationalist groups of Slovaks and Ukrainians, aided from Berlin.

Some political observers believe the same technique might be tried in the United States—an effort to turn worker against employer, race against race, creed against creed; to create loyalties and hatreds so intense that they seemed to go beyond patriotism.

How can Americans fight the "fifth column?"

Constant Check On the Airwaves

The most dangerous "fifth column" stays under cover. Only the skilled sleuths of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and their chosen police aides are equipped to deal with it. The G-Men welcome tips from the public but prefer to make their own investigations.

Because a man is not arrested does not necessarily mean he has eluded the counter-espionage net. Sometimes investigators prefer to watch their man in operation, knowing they can put a finger on him when the time comes.

While persons in America are not required to carry pink slips or identification cards, Government agencies have a check on most of the instruments needed for "fifth column" work.

The Federal Communications Commission—assisted by thousands of short-wave "hams"—keeps a constant check on persons using the airwaves to send messages. If an unlicensed station is heard, it is run to earth.

Every automobile that travels the highways must carry a license tag that identifies its owner. Every plane likewise—and every pilot—

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Some of the edge of the anti-Nazi feeling here has been taken off by a shrewd propaganda campaign, generally believed to cost in the neighborhood of 1,000,000 pesos (\$227,500) a month in Argentina alone. In addition to numerous radio broadcasts from Berlin and frequent scatterings of handbills boosting the Nazi cause, Germans have been pounding out their propaganda through the press.

When the war started they already had the established Deutsche La Plata Zeitung, a morning newspaper, and later tried to buy into the afternoon field. They failed, but they established El Pampero, which is now six months old and doing fairly well, possibly because newspaper boys get 50 free copies with each 50 they buy. German funds also set up four reviews: Crisol daily; Esclavitud and Clarinada, weeklies, and La Maroma, a monthly. All are anti-British, anti-Semitic, anti-Communist and anti-United States.

The publications exist mainly through the advertising of the P. P. F., the nation-wide oil and gas corporation which is attracting attention as a possible "fifth-column" fountain head because of the number of German technicians employed in key positions. So anti-Semitic has the corporation apparently become that Jewish firms are refusing to use its products.

Some Propaganda Films Evoke Boos

Besides help given in the form of advertising, provincial newspapers are offered transoceanic news dispatches free of charge and the chance of this double profit has been accepted by many. To the press and radio has been added the German-edited newsreel. Some of the German motion picture propaganda has been so blatant that it has evoked laughter, or boos, instead of cheers.

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Every automobile that travels the highways must carry a license tag that identifies its owner. Every plane likewise—and every pilot—is licensed. Boats plying coastal waters must display their official number. In many places, persons owning unlicensed arms are subject to arrest.

For protection of military secrets, the Army and Navy send trained officers into industrial plants where armaments are produced.

Against any possible infiltration of foreign agents—such as the German "tourists" who fought Norway from within—President Roosevelt has called for a tightening of immigration guards under Justice Department control.

As to the average citizen's job, Attorney General Jackson offers this advice:

"Refrain from joining any organization until you know:

"First, the source of its promotional funds;

"Second, who your associates in the organization are, and who their backers are.

"Third, what becomes of your dues or contributions.

"Well-meaning persons may easily be duped into serving or helping finance activities of which they would not approve and which would embarrass them. They may find themselves responsible legally and morally for the activities of their associates.

"Keep cool and do not become frightened. Sensational statements as to the 'fifth column' should be received with suspicion. As in most matters, persons with real information and responsibility measure their words. Sensational statements and their makers should be discounted."

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There is some minor fretting about the army, trained for a long time by Germans and staffed in part by officers who completed studies in Germany. Germany's military reputation, despite its victories in Europe, still bears the scars here of the drubbing given to German-trained Bolivian forces by the French-trained Paraguayan army in the Chaco dispute.

The Italian population is a source of worry to Argentina, where there are more than 2,000,000 Italians. Most are anti-Nazi, but openly admit that "We'd support Italy if Italy went into war."

The British are not entirely free from suspicion. Recently the Herald, more British than its London namesake, published a letter urging the thousands of Britons here who have offered their services to England to "get together and start an organization to counteract the possible use of the (Nazi) 'fifth column.'"

"Our organization could be formed so that each member has a few Huns allotted to him," the letter said, and added, "I am sure the Argentine authorities, in their apathy, would raise no objection."

In Uruguay the situation has grown so serious that the government has set up a committee—similar to the American Dies Committee—to investigate Nazi activities. In Brazil there is not only heavy radio and press propaganda in favor of the Nazis, but in the German colonies in Santa Catharina, Parana and Rio Grande do Sul communities have been found where German is the common language, residents could not recognize the Brazilian flag and—in at least one school—Hitler was believed to be president of Brazil.