

NAZI ACTIVITY HERE TO BE INVESTIGATED

NY Times
Dickstein Orders an Inquiry by
Congressional Committee on
'Plot' to Spur Hitlerism.

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SAYS BIGOTRY IS STIRRED

Hears 300 Sent as Diplomatic
Aides Spread Propaganda
for the Dictatorship.

Samuel Dickstein, chairman of the Committee on Immigration of the House of Representatives, announced here yesterday that he would start an investigation next week into pro-Nazi propaganda in the United States.

As a result of evidence presented to him from various sources, Representative Dickstein declared that "the Nazi government has reached into this country."

"Congress being in recess," he continued, "I have decided it is the duty of the committee of which I am chairman to begin now an unofficial study of the charges that have been made against aliens who entered this country from Germany for the purpose not only of forming here a brand of Hitler's government and Hitler's newspapers but to establish here racial and religious hatred and bigotry."

Hears 300 Were Sent Here.

"The soil of the United States is being used as the ground on which to hatch plots detrimental to the government and to the peace of this country by men and women, some of whom are being sent to the United States under the guise of diplomatic or consulate attachés, although no consular or diplomatic work is expected of the persons sent here ostensibly for that purpose."

"I have some information to the effect that about 300 persons have recently entered the United States as employes or servants of German consulates. The number is ridiculously large for the ordinary conduct of affairs by legitimate German consular offices in the United States."

"Most of the men sent here have been personally selected by the German Minister of Propaganda. Many millions of marks have been made available for their maintenance in the United States and the expenses which they may incur to carry on their propaganda here."

"It is not our function to interfere with the internal affairs of any country, or with the form of government the Germans wish to have for themselves, or whether they are inclined to subjugate their own liberty to the wishes of Hitler and make him their ruler."

"Nevertheless, as chairman of the Committee on Immigration, the jurisdiction of which includes the policy of this country with reference to the admission and exclusion of aliens, I cannot permit evidence presented to me, of a very substantial and voluminous character, affecting aliens conducting anti-American propaganda in this country, to go unchallenged without making every effort to go to the root of the matter and investigate all the facts and circumstances with the view of affording our country the protection it deserves from any malicious and unwarranted alien propaganda of German policies within the limits of the United States."

"Not content with stifling all discussion or criticism of their régime in Germany, the Nazi government has reached into this country and is here conducting malicious propaganda for the Nazi cause in the United States."

"Information has reached me that the Nazi government maintains a propaganda bureau which is heavily financed by the resources of the German Government. The objective of the bureau and its activities consist in spreading Nazi propaganda in the United States, with the ultimate object of overthrowing our government and of installing in its place a dictatorship on the Nazi model."

"If Congress were in session I would have asked for an official resolution to make a full and proper Congressional investigation. Meanwhile, however, it is necessary that determined steps be taken so that we may know the source of these activities and that proper Congressional action may be taken at the proper time after such study by this committee, with the hope of protecting our citizens and to deport from this country aliens who are not rightfully here, and who have obtained their right to enter by fraud, in violation of our immigration laws, and who use the hospitality of the United States for nefarious propaganda undermining our institutions and government."

"Friends of the Hitler brand of government now in this country will be asked to come before the committee and explain themselves, in order to clear the atmosphere that has been spreading through the United States by movement of alien or German propaganda in the manner outlined."

Recalls War-Time Propaganda.

"It is not the first time, by the way, that such an attempt has been made to use the soil of the United States for nefarious alien propaganda. We all remember that during the World War attempts were made during the time this country was neutral to spread propaganda in the Southern States with the view of detaching New Mexico, and Arizona from the United States."

NYT 10/10/33
"Apparently undeterred by the fact that our government will not permit itself to be used as a tool for foreign propaganda, the present régime of Germany is again seeking to undermine public confidence in our government and institutions by this 'stab in the back.'"

"By way of this new attempt to alienate our people from its government, it is the philosophy of Nazism to bring about in this country the same type of racial and religious hatred which they were so successful in establishing in Germany. Our people, of course, will not tolerate this means of conducting propaganda, and it is necessary to take decided steps in opposition to it."

Mr. Dickstein said he had consulted with the Speaker and the parliamentarian of the House of Representatives and had verified his authority to conduct the investigation. He said he would fix the opening date for some time next week and that hearings would be in the Immigration Committee rooms in the office building of the House of Representatives.

Bernard Ridder to Testify.

One of the prospective witnesses, who made no secret of his identity, is Bernard Ridder, publisher of the Staats-Zeitung. Mr. Ridder said he received a visit recently from Heinz Spanknoebel, who showed him credentials from the German Government as leader in establishing pro-Nazi organizations in America.

Mr. Ridder said Mr. Spanknoebel told him he must print fewer pro-Semitic articles and more pro-Hitler if he wished any consideration when he visited Germany again. Mr. Ridder ordered Mr. Spanknoebel out of his office, he said.

In the last few weeks, Mr. Ridder has led an unsuccessful resistance to the rise of Mr. Spanknoebel and his associates to power in the United German Societies at a series of turbulent meetings which led to the final withdrawal of four German-Jewish societies on the issue of anti-Semitism, together with six other societies that held with Mr. Ridder that the United Societies were departing from "liberalism and American principles."

The coherence of the sixty-odd societies remaining in the United German group, Mr. Ridder said, was due to the fact that leaders in these societies had been informed by pro-Nazi organizers that any resistance would bring punishment on their parents or other relatives in Germany.

Mr. Spanknoebel admitted his visit to Mr. Ridder and his attempt to change the editorial policy of the Staats-Zeitung.

He denied that threats had been made against relatives in Germany. The pro-Nazi movement in America has a newspaper of its own, Das Neue Deutschland (The New Germany), he pointed out. It is the organ of the Friends of New Germany, the organization Mr. Spanknoebel was commissioned to form here.

Forged "Evidence" Charged.

Mr. Spanknoebel said the officers associated with him were Fritz Gissibel, vice president, and Engelbert Roell, treasurer; that the editor and publisher of Das Neue Deutschland was Martin Hartmann and that the "business end" of the enterprise was in the hands of Werner Haag, formerly engaged in the automobile export business.

Both Mr. Spanknoebel and Mr. Haag denounced in detail as a forgery and libel a letter circulated by The Daily Worker, a Communist newspaper, and by the American committee against Fascist oppression in Germany. The letter purports to be a secret report from Mr. Haag, as Mr. Spanknoebel's adjutant, addressed to "Uschla," Alexanderplatz, Berlin, where the Berlin Police Headquarters is located.