

Buffalo Nazi Session Closed After Protests

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Red Flag Hoisted on Hotel Where Friends of New Germany Met Carried Slogan of Freedom for Ernst Thaelmann

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BUFFALO, N. Y., Mar. 29.—Under protection of two policemen, fifty leaders of the Friends of New Germany met in Hotel Statler today in what was reported to be the long-heralded but mysterious "Nazi convention" to set up a Nazi political party in this country.

A red flag hoisted to the top of a flagpole on the hotel, bore a demand for the freedom of Thaelmann and for ousting the Nazis from Buffalo. The convention of the College of Surgeons and Physicians protested to the Staler management for permitting the Nazis to meet there.

The session of the Nazis was closed and the participants refused to make any comment on the gathering.

Consulate Picketed

Members of the Anti-Nazi Convention Committee, who had picketed the Ellicott Square Building earlier in the day as a protest to the German Consul, Alexander F. Chapin, planned to visit the Statler meeting.

The meeting at the Statler was arranged under the name of "Emil Piefer" and hotel officials said they knew nothing of its nature. Besides the two policemen detailed to the meeting room in the Hotel, others were held "in case of trouble" and another detail was sent to 728 Genesee St., Buffalo, headquarters of the Friends of New Germany.

Thirty pickets, led by Frank Heron paraded in front of the Consul's office carrying large signs bearing the slogans:

"Down with Nazi-ism." "No Nazi convention in Buffalo."

Police did nothing until 12 noon, prompt, when they told the pickets to march on. At South Division and Main Street an argument arose with police when four or five of the pickets tried to duck out of line and return to the building entrance.

Mayor Not Interested

Two delegations were appointed for the purpose of registering protests with Mayor Zimmermann and the German Consulate. The delegation to the Mayor was told by Mr. Fleming, Secretary to the Mayor that the holding of a Nazi convention in the city of Buffalo in no way interested the Mayor's office.

and that no action or statements were contemplated against Nazi agents alleged to be in this country and meeting secretly in this city to plan with American fascists the advance of fascism.

Spokesmen for the anti-Nazi convention committee pointed out that while the Nazis are granted full civil liberties and rights to plan their terrorist campaigns American citizens protesting against Nazi activities were denied the right of peaceful picketing and threatened with arrest by the Buffalo Police Department.

The delegation to the German Consulate was received by Von Kiesow, Secretary to Alexander Chapin, local German Consul.

Von Kiesow's Denial

The delegation informed Von Kiesow that it possessed information linking German nationals with this organization and documentary evidence bearing the imprint of the Friends of New Germany proving beyond all doubt the official connection between Nazi organizations active in this country and the government of the Third Reich.

Von Kiesow vigorously denied this.

The delegation declared that this and other evidence directly linking the Friends of New Germany with the Nazi Uropaganda Department of Germany would be presented at a mass meeting called by the anti-Nazis at the Labor Educational Club, 760 Main Street, 7 P. M., Sunday evening.