

# NAZI BUND CAN'T GET HALL, MEETING OFF INDEFINITELY

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## Delegates Notified of Post- ponement of Convention, Which Was to Have Started Tomorrow.

Inability of the local Amerika-deutsche Volksbund to hire a hall resulted yesterday in announcement of "indefinite postponement" of a midwestern regional convention, which was to have been addressed tomorrow night by Fritz Kuhn, national leader of the pro-Nazi organization.

The announcement was made by Anton Kessler, leader of the St. Louis section of the Volksbund. "We can't meet if we don't have a hall," he said to a Post-Dispatch reporter at his home, 4541 Chouteau avenue, where he also operates a decorating business.

He had no idea when, if ever, the group would be able to hold its meeting here, but said they would not give up and still hoped to make arrangements some time.

"We'll just lie low and see what happens," he added.

Most of the delegates will be notified at once of the decision. Kessler said that a few might not be reached and would come to St. Louis anyway. Leader Kuhn also has been notified.

### Kessler's View of Situation.

Opposition to the convention has developed because the plans and the difficulty of getting a hall have been kept before the public by the press, Kessler asserted. An unfavorable opinion of the Volksbund has been formed, he said, "for lack of full facts."

Decision of the board of directors of the Oakville Farmers' Club, Tuesday night, to bar the Volksbund from its hall on Telegraph road, St. Louis County, was the final blow to the plans for holding the meeting tomorrow and Sunday. This was the third privately owned meeting place which refused its facilities to the Nazi supporters. German-American residents of communities supporting the Farmers' Club and labor and veterans' groups had protested against the gathering.

The German House, 2345 Lafayette avenue, acting on similar protests from labor and from German-American societies, was the first to deny its quarters to the Volksbund. Then the Volksbund arranged to get the Oakville hall for tomorrow night's meeting and the Liederkranz Club, 2163 South Grand boulevard, for the Sunday session, but last Tuesday the Liederkranz Club decided to bar the Volksbund.

In such instances the Volksbund arranged to rent a hall from the manager, and the subsequent refusal was by order of the directors.

### Musicians Engaged.

Kessler declared that the Volksbund intended still to seek to hold the Oakville club to its agreement to furnish a hall in the future, as a \$25 deposit had been accepted on a rental contract. He added that the Volksbund had contracted with musicians for the convention and expected to live up to its contract.

While the Volksbund has its own meeting hall in a storeroom at 2960 Oregon avenue and a camp on the Meramec River, neither place is large enough for a gathering of the size which was expected. Delegates were to have come from Chicago, Detroit, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Dayton, O.; Kenosha and Sheboygan, Wis., and Hammond and South Bend, Ind.

Protests against the convention originated with objections to a parade of uniformed Nazi followers, but the organization later said a parade had not been contemplated. About 2000 persons met last Sunday night at the Armory, Grand boulevard and Market street, to condemn Fascism and warn members of the Volksbund that some elements, at least, in the United States, were opposed to Nazi activities in this country. The audience consisted chiefly of members of labor, veterans and German-American societies, called together by the St. Louis Council for American Democracy. The council was formed recently for the sole purpose of holding this meeting.

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