

Kuhn, at Albany Session, Smiles At Nazi Attack

Dickstein and Fish Assail Semi-Military Groups, Then Bund Chief Loses His Poise at Hearing

By a Staff Correspondent

ALBANY, June 30.—A public hearing before the Constitutional Convention's Committee on Military Affairs on amendments admittedly designed to halt the rapid growth in this country of semi-military organizations such as the German-American Bund developed tonight into a furious assault on Nazism and on Fritz Kuhn, the so-called Fuehrer of the Bund.

Kuhn, only defender of the Bund to attend the hearing, at first received the attacks with a quiet smile, but presently the words of his tormentors, among them Representative Samuel Dickstein, New York Democrat, stripped him of his poise and handcuffed his slight command of English in the excitement of his retorts.

From the outset, it was evident that the speakers did not intend to confine themselves to the amendments in question and the committee chairman, Representative Hamilton Fish jr., Dutchess County Republican, had no desire to make them new to the line. Mr. Fish himself, obviously intending to put Communism alongside Nazism as a menace, asked Henry Forbes, the Communist spokesman, if his party "wants to establish the red flag in America."

Mr. Forbes pointed to the American flag in the front of the Assembly chamber, where the meeting was held, and replied with a smile: "That is good enough for us."

Armory Use at Issue

The proposed amendments would prohibit the use of state armories by any organization owing allegiance to a foreign government or advocating the principle of such government, and would prevent the arming, disciplining and training of individuals for military purposes.

Kuhn, insisting that his Bund was not a semi-military organization, announced that he favored the proposals. Forbes disapproved of the armory amendment, warning that its language was so broad that it would prevent British organizations and even Catholic groups from using armories, and in the wrong hands could be applied to every minority group, playing into the hands of every local Hitler.

He favored the other proposals wholeheartedly, however, observing that "we should learn from the experience of other nations who waited too long before becoming alarmed over attacks on democracy by such groups." He insisted that Communism supported democracy and pleaded that "you at least have the hindsight to see what's happened in Spain, Germany and France."
The hearing was timed to coincide with the annual convention of the

Veterans of Foreign Wars, which is being held here this week-end. It was expected that the chamber would be backed with veterans, but a parade of drum and bugle corps was moving through the streets of Albany when the hearing started and as a result only about 150 persons attended. A half dozen state troopers were present, in plain clothes and inconspicuous.

Mr. Dickstein was the first non-delegate to speak. Kuhn smiled as the Representative and others assailed him as responsible for "a cancerous growth in the nation." But the Bund leader was angered when Mr. Dickstein suggested that he might have been a spy in the World War.

The Representative said that when the Congressional Committee investigating Nazi activities came to New York, he wanted "to inquire of Fritz if he is the same Fritz Julius Kuhn held as a spy during the World War." He said that the names were alike and that the description of Kuhn, the spy, was "the same as the Fuehrer."

The Bund leader retorted that he served in the German army in the war and now was an American citizen, loved his adopted country and had no sympathy for spies, even the German spy ring.

Americans, He Says

"None of the spies are members of our organization," he shouted. "You should have shot them if they were spies. If they were spies, let them have it. We are all American citizens in the Bund."

Mr. Dickstein said that the nation "ought to get rid of Fritz Kuhns" and condemned the McNaboe committee for permitting Kuhn to attack the Jews at a hearing in New York several days ago. He charged that the McNaboe group, the Joint Legislative Committee on Administration and Enforcement of the law, of which State Senator John J. McNaboe is chairman, "does not know where it's driving."

Kuhn, stuttering with rage, insisted that the bund was not a secret organization. He said he had twenty-two camps and soon would have eight more, but their purpose was to take poor children off the streets. He said that the camps were run on the system used by the Boy Scouts of America, that no one drilled and there was an American flag in every camp.

"The cancer here is Dicksteinism," he shouted, "and he investigated four years and had a chance to prove we were racketeers. Only he doesn't open his mouth outside Washington. Otherwise he is too yellow, so I slap him a suit for slander."

He was also aroused by Mr. Dickstein's remarks on Kuhn's recent visit to Adolf Hitler. He wanted to know how Mr. Dickstein knew the nature of his talk with Hitler. Piffing a gag from a radio comedian, the bund leader asked: "Was you dere, Sharlie?"

Representatives of the American Legion, Jewish War Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars went on record for all the measures proposed tonight.

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