

LOUIS F. BUDENZ - - - Heart of America

TREASON is difficult to defend.

Such a reflection arises from a reading of the Nazi organ in Chicago.

The "Deutscher Weckruff"—that is its name—rushes in where even William Randolph Hearst fears to tread. And Hearst, every well-informed person knows, is trying hard enough to earn his bread-and-butter money from Hitler.

How can we defend our brothers, the Nazi spies? was a question which tortured the Hitlerite agents of the Weckruff. It was a hard nut to crack. Then, clumsy inspiration came: "Search for the woman, and raise the hue and cry of 'chivalry'."

And in the June 23 issue, the Nazis do the best they can—to throw a mantle of "chivalry" over the shoulders of the men and women who were caught red-handed plotting for the weakening of our national defense.

Mrs. Maria Griehl is the woman they choose. The American government, in arresting the wife of the notorious Hitler agent, is practising "the best manner of Russian bolshevist procedure." The American government held Mrs. Griehl in order to carry out the "bolshevist practise" of "torturing the families of men accused of political offenses in order to make them 'confess', whereupon they are stood against a wall and shot."

So rants the Weckruff. Then, comes along a "total stranger" and bails Mrs. Griehl out. There is the "chivalry."

Such is the moving story, as told by the Nazi sheet.

The difficulty is that there is not a word of truth in it.

The Weckruff feels, uneasily, that it is all a bit thick. Its editors make a supreme effort to wash their hands of Ignatz Griehl.

They "hold no brief," they say, for the very man whom they are strenuously defending by implying that he is innocent but would be subject to horrible torture if he returned to these United States.

The horror story about the "bolshevik procedure" is made out of whole cloth. It simply does not exist.

HERE, in a new form, we have the old fascist trick—played likewise by Hearst, McCornick and other pro-fascists in America. "Apply



to our democratic enemies our own crimes—and confuse the picture for the people!" It is Hitlerism which has introduced the refinements of family torture, a fit accompaniment to its sadistic use of the axe for the death sentence.

This horror story on the bolsheviks is of the same stuff as the wild tale that Mrs. Griehl was to be "tortured" by the American G-men, who certainly displayed no undue zeal to catch any of the Nazis.

The "excessive" bail for the wife of the Nazi spy was a mere \$5,000—a small sum for the Hitlerite spy service to produce. The "total stranger" who rushed to her rescue was none other than Seward Collins, a notorious fascist.

Very shortly, the Weckruff will weep bitter tears over the red-headed hair-dresser of the Bremen, the go-between in the plot to murder an American army officer.

But that is not all. The Weckruff has to rush, pell mell, to another front. With the "Christian Free Press"—a subversive K.K.K. sheet—it cries out that the Dies Committee is Communist controlled.

That certainly will be news to America, which sees the chairman of this committee writing copyrighted articles against the Communists, for the chief paid agent of Hitler, William Randolph Hearst.

But the Weckruff is engaged in a gigantic effort to rush to the aid of its assassin-allies, the Silver Shirts.

"Who stands to profit by this new Communist-promoted investigation?" it cries. "The anti-Christian and international forcés. Who are their leaders? The American Jewish Committee and the Zionist organizations."

Somehow or other, the irony of this sentence—repeated over and over in the Weckruff—does not register in its editorial offices. The decking out of Hitlerism as a defender of Christianity, when several thousand Catholics are in jail for "immorality" and when the Protestant clergy are also subjected to intense persecution—just won't work. We see the joining of the foulness of the Ku Klux Klan with the slime of Nazis in this business—a logical unholy alliance that calls for a smashing by the democratic forces of the nation.

The Nazis, through their sheets, make their own confessions. They are interested in covering up overt acts of treason against our American Republic.

The quicker the air of America is cleared of these traitors—and their Big Business allies—the better will it be for all the common people.