

AFL, CIO Hail Ban On Nazis

Congratulate Record on Drive Against Bund

7/12/38

Leaders of the CIO and AFL yesterday described the barring of the Nazi German American Bund from Riverview Park as demonstrating that the people of Chicago "will have none of Hitler's spies and fascists."

Riverview Park officials announced the banning of the Bund rally, at which Hitler's henchman, Fritz Kuhn, was to speak, yesterday after protests by unions, progressive and Jewish organizations. Bund spokesmen immediately protested but to no avail and yesterday the office of the fascist organization admitted that "the meeting was off."

Joseph Weber, SWOC representative of the International Harvester unions that protested to the Riverview management,

"This is certainly a victory for the progressive, democratic-loving people of Chicago. It demonstrates that the sentiment of the AFL, the CIO and other progressive and anti-fascist organizations is not to let the forces of Hitler establish any foothold in Chicago."

Said Wilhelm Levander, president of the AFL union on the elevated lines and whose membership numbers many Catholics:

"It's my opinion that our membership is not in any way in favor of anything that is associated with Hitlerism. I think that the banning of the meeting demonstrates that Chicagoans, and particularly the people who patronize Riverview Park, did not want the park defiled by such a rally."

Henry Johnson, assistant director of the Packinghouse Workers Organizing Committee, made the following comment:

"This makes it clear that the people of Chicago will have none of Hitler's spies and fascists."

"By the joint action of anti-fascist German groups, of progressives and the AFL and CIO, the meeting has been stopped. I'm particularly pleased about this because it was definitely a trade union question. Not only does Hitler's Bund work to overthrow democracy and replace our government with a fascist one, but they also serve as the core which rallies such anti-labor bands as are attacking unionists in Jersey City, in New Orleans, in Newton, Iowa, and

North Chicago.

"The victory against the Nazis here should sharpen the appetite of progressives for greater gains. Congratulations to the Record for a splendid job in exposing this meeting."

Ben Meyers, as Chairman, and Herman Jacobs, as Secretary of the Jewish People's Committee against Fascism and anti-Semitism, hailed the decision of the Management of Riverview Park to cancel the demonstration. Their statement said:

"This decision is a great victory for democracy and peace, and the Management of Riverview Park deserves the compliments of all progressive elements of Chicago."

"It is important to note that the decision of the Management of the Riverview Park was brought about through the unity of action of the Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith, Jewish Labor Committee, together with our body, Jewish People's Committee against Fascism and anti-Semitism, and with the efforts of the German Cultural League, the American League for Peace and Democracy, as well as the Chicago anti-fascists and the strong activities of the Jewish and other progressive trade unions of Chicago."

RIVERSHEAD, L. I., July 12 —Ernest Mueller, Nazi Bund leader, and five fellow Hitlerites were found guilty today of violating the state's civil rights law.

Mueller was sentenced to a year in jail and fined \$500. The other Bundsmen were fined an equal amount, while the organization itself was ordered to pay a fine of \$10,000.