

Nazis Kidnap No. 2 Fuehrer

(Special to the Record)

NEW YORK, N. Y., July 13— Another sensational development shook the ranks of the German American Bund today as the No. 2 Nazi in the state, Joachim Poffrath, charged that he had been kidnaped and held prisoner by local Nazis because of disagreement with their policies.

According to Richard Rollins, special investigator of the U. S. House of Representatives immigration committee, Poffrath was recently tossed into a car loaded with gunmen and taken to Hoboken, N. J., where he was held prisoner for three days in a cheap hotel.

At the hotel the Nazi's captors told him that he would be forced to return to Germany where he would face certain death at the hands of Hitler's agents. Desperate, Poffrath finally made a dash for freedom

and escaped after several shots were fired at him.

Following his escape, Poffrath told his story to Rollins and charged that agents of Fritz Kuhn, leader of the German American Bund, had kidnaped him. Kuhn today denied the charge.

Poffrath said that his differences with Kuhn were over tactical questions. This was thought to point to a widening breach between the faction in the Bund headed by Kuhn and by the other group headed by Peter Gissbl of Chicago. Gissbl was recently ousted by Kuhn after the two had quarreled over the best tactics to advance fascism in America. Gissbl, Bund informants say wants to do away with the Bund storm troopers and send the German American fascists out to work with and unite the Silver Shirts,

the Ku Klux Klan and all other fascist organizations into one band that would travel under a "100 per cent American label." Kuhn on the other hand, wants the storm troopers and the goose step.

Meanwhile, Bund leaders, still smarting under the sentences meted out yesterday to five Nazi chieftains in New Jersey, announced that they would launch a "protest" campaign to win the freedom of Hitler's apprehended handy men. Nazi leader Ernest Muller was sentenced to a year in jail and fined \$500 while his four fellow-heilers were fined the same amount.

The men were convicted of failing to file a list of their membership with the secretary of state after a former storm trooper, Willy Brandt, testified that members of the so-called "German American Settlement League" were forced to take an oath of allegiance of Hitler.