

The Verdict Was Perfect.

The jury in Suffolk County Court brought in an excellent verdict when, after fifteen minutes' deliberation and on the first ballot, it pronounced "Guilty" on the six Hitlerite German-American incorporators of the Settlement League which operates Camp Siegfried for the Nazis.

The jury said a resounding "No!" to Nazi fanaticism, intolerance, Jew-baiting, hysteria, repression and nostalgia for alien ideals. To call Camp Siegfried or its frequenters a menace would be to flatter them, but all connected with the Bund movement need to be told that this country resents—though it does not fear—all attempts to propagate their Fascistic doctrines.

The charge was violation of a 1923 statute enacted for the specific purpose of curbing the Ku Klux Klan, a statute requiring all oath-bound organizations to list their members with the Secretary of State. The Klan certainly never was more undesirable than the German-American Bund, and any weapon valid against the Klan is appropriate to turn on the Nazis.

With unhesitating promptness the jury snapped up the Nazi challenge to democracy and American principles. Suffolk County has spoken forthrightly for the whole United States.

After all of the foregoing we want to turn around now and say, while still applauding the verdict, that we think Judge L. Barron Hill passed out too severe a sentence by imposing a year in jail on the camp leader, Ernst Mueller. Jail sentences of the five other defendants were suspended, and Judge Hill would have been smarter, in our opinion, to apply the same rule to Mueller. In dealing with the intolerant it is worth a great deal to avoid even the appearance of intolerance.