

*Open Forum 7/14/38*

### **CURB ON NAZI MEETINGS TO BE TESTED**

Comparing the recent resolution of the Milwaukee Common Council banning Nazi and Silver Shirt meetings in licensed taverns with the fascist tactics of Mayor Frank Hague of Jersey City, the Civil Liberties Union has declared it will test in the courts any revocation of a tavern license as abridging the rights of free speech and assemblage.

In telegrams signed by Arthur Garfield Hays, counsel, and Roger N. Baldwin, director, to Mayor Daniel W. Hoan, the Milwaukee Common Council, and the chief of police, the Union said:

"We strongly protest the council's resolution instructing the chief of police to revoke licenses of taverns permitting Nazi and Silver Shirt groups to meet. Such action is in violation of constitutional guarantees of free speech and assemblage and threatens rather than defends democratic institutions. We urge recognition of civil rights of minorities, however distasteful their views, and request you rescind the resolution. We are prepared to test in court the revocation of any permit as unconstitutional."

The council's resolution, passed on June 6th, instructs the chief of police to file a complaint for the revocation of licenses of tavern halls permitting meetings of Silver Shirts, the so-called protective leagues and similar groups which "foment racial and religious hatred." Under the resolution, the taverns and dance halls would be classed as "public nuisances." In signing the resolution, Mayor Hoan said he understood it applied only to "secret meetings."