

Nazi Bund Excluded in German Day Rallies

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Nazi War Threat Sharpens Cleavage Between German Groups and Nazi Bund; To Hold Rally at Garden; Other Cities Follow

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By Lowell Wakefield

The war crisis is sharpening the cleavage between America's loyal citizens of German descent and Fuehrer Fritz Kuhn's Nazi German-American Bund.

Twelve powerful middle-of-the-road German-American societies have barred the Bund from all participation in the German Day celebration sched-

uled for Madison Square Garden October 2. Bund members, no matter what organization they represent, have been expelled from the German Day committee representing these organizations. And the committee has issued this scathing denunciation of the American branch of the Nazis:

"They are un-American and they are un-German."

Leaders of the progressive German-American League for Culture were going ahead yesterday with their original plans for a "real German Day celebration in the democratic tradition of Carl Schurz." Royal Windsor Auditorium, Dec. 4, is the time and place. And the great German author, Nobel prize-winner Thomas Mann, will be the featured speaker.

KUHN EXCLUDED

Yet they welcomed the exclusion of Kuhn from the Madison Square Garden affair, mentioning only

several points about that meeting still remain unsettled—whether the Garden will ring with the democratic traditions of German-Americans, or be violated as in past years by a representative of the Nazi government, by the display of the swastike, and by the singing of the Hitler Horst Wessel song.

The German - American conference, which is at the head of the 12 organizations arranging the Madison Square Garden rally, expected to complete all plans within a few days, officials announced yesterday.

GERMAN ANTI-NAZI RALLIES

In St. Louis, Milwaukee, Chicago, Kenosha, Rochester and many other cities German-Americans celebrate one united German Day—without the Nazis and without the swastike.

The statement issued by the

conference deploras the fact "that at this extraordinarily critical time the German stock citizens of America—are split in two camps by the impertinent Fuehrer-lectures of a small group."

The statement declared "Cooperation with the leadership of the Bund impossible."

The German - American Bund countered yesterday with an official statement referring to the German Day committee as "the cowardly, sneaking, Jewish-dependent pseudo-Germandom." Theodore Hoffman, president of the Steuben Society (which the Nazis recently, and unsuccessfully tried to capture), was attacked by the Bund in this fashion:

"We don't recognize German-American - conference - Steuben - Hoffman, who lights a cigar and puts his hands in his pockets when the Horst Wessel is sung and who four months ago called Hitler, the Fuehrer of the Germans, a criminal—we don't recognize this man as a German."

The Steuben Society is the largest, and one of the oldest and most respected of German-American organizations.

"The disagreeable incidents of last year's German Day—insulting for the participants and especially for the honor guests," was cited as one reason for excluding the Bund in the conference's statement.

NAZIS CREATED A RIOT

At last year's celebration Kuhn's followers and uniformed storm troopers (O. D.) created a riot during the part of the program being broadcast to Germany, shouting, "We want Kuhn," while the fuehrer tried to get possession of the microphone.

"This year's German Day will see no militaristic display and no

parade marches of the O. D.," the conference declared.

"It will be an affair in which citizens speak to citizens. The German Day is a festival of serious and responsible Americans of German descent. No greater service could be given to the enemies of the German-Americans than for a small group to succeed in spreading the seed of hatred.

"This seed will never grow. We German-Americans will see to it."

German Day is traditionally the celebration of the settling of German immigrants at what is now Germantown, Philadelphia, the first of October, 1688. First observances of the day were at Germantown in the 1890's. First New York meetings were under the leadership of the great liberal statesman, Carl Schurz.

German Day celebrations were not held during the war. Since the rise of Hitler to power, there has been a constant struggle as to the manner in which the day should be observed.

The present rejection of Nazi participation, in the opinion of most observers, grows out of two things:

1. The critical international situation, and a growing realization that Nazism means war.

2. Opposition to the campaign of Kuhn and other Hitler agents here for the formation of a separate German pressure - bloc within the United States, coupled with resentment against the traitorous espionage and propaganda activities of the Nazis.