

# GERMAN DAY RALLY SPLITS WITH NAZIS

10/3/38  
Patriotic Program at Garden  
Marks Break in Ranks—  
Kuhn Routed in Jersey

*W.H. Jones*  
The celebration of German Day in Madison Square Garden last night became the occasion for an open break between Nazi disciples and those who consider themselves more Americanized Germans in this country.

According to announcements from the platform, the break took the German Day organizers by surprise, after they recently purged the celebration of the Nazi forces led by Fritz Kuhn and his German-American Bund.

Hans E. Wirsing, chairman of the celebration and president of the United German Societies, said the German Ambassador was too busy to come from Washington and that the German Consul General in New York declined. On Saturday, Mr. Wirsing said, the German-American Commercial League (Deutsch-Amerikanische Berufsgemeinschaft) backed out of the celebration in which it had agreed to take a leading part, together with 150 men and women who were to have acted in theatrical tableaux.

**Dramatic Coach Withdraws**  
Yesterday afternoon, a few hours before the hour set for opening the doors, Mr. Wirsing said, the dramatic coach and theme-creator of the celebration, Hanns Muenz, said likewise that he could not appear in view of the declination of official German representatives to countenance this German Day with their presence.

"They went so far," Mr. Wirsing told the audience in a voice trembling with anger, "to threaten even little children who were to appear in the tableaux. They said to them: 'If you are true Germans you will not play at Madison Square Garden this evening. Nevertheless the children of the Turnverein will play and by feverish work we have secured enough substitute actors to attempt the tableaux the best we can.'"

"Let us therefore hope that this will be the last time in the history of the German people when we in New York are not allowed to carry through our own will."

**Assails Political Manoeuvres**  
Theodore H. Hoffmann, national president of the Steuben Society, composed of naturalized German-Americans, was equally emphatic in disapproval of what he called "any exhibition of any foreign politics on our shores which can have

no other result than to create a feeling of hostility against those who exhibit it and the country which they claim to represent."

He said the current German Day celebration "marks a turning point in the history of German-American movements in this country." He called the roll of societies which he said the 32,000,000 men and women of German descent in this country might loyally support.

In this city, according to Mr. Hoffmann, they were the societies federated in the German-American conference, which sponsored German Day this year and which stripped the Nazi forces under Fritz Kuhn of such participation as they had in German Day last year.

Mr. Kuhn proceeded separately last night to address advertised celebrations of his German-American Bund on the "Liberation of the Sudetens" at various points, except Union City, N. J., where a surging crowd of 5,000 persons led by war veterans surrounded the Bund Hall. On advice of the police, Mr. Kuhn retreated without a speech, followed by a few brickbats and roars of "Run him out!"

He continued his planned schedule in New York after a fast drive to the Turn Hall in Yorkville.

What happened at Madison Square Garden, however, was considered by experienced observers of the Nazi agitation in this country as a more notable indication of the position of the body of German-American opinion, since the German Day celebration this year was under the auspices of the German-American conference, the topmost federation in a structure of underlying federations, each uniting in turn the special singing, sport, social and other societies in which Germans in the metropolitan district are organized.

By decision of the conference the Nazi forces this year lost such participation in German Day as they had last year, which in turn was less than in 1936, when Mr. Kuhn and his German-American Bund dominated the proceedings after a three-year struggle in the declared interest of the New Germany.

## Fish Is Chief Speaker

By contrast to last year's German Day, when Mr. Kuhn was allowed to parade his uniformed troopers but not to speak, the speaker in Madison Square last night was Representative Hamilton Fish. Only last January Mr. Fish was the chief speaker at a meeting in Carnegie Hall organized by the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League to "Protest Five Years of Hitler Terror."

The absence of any official German representative among the speakers further emphasized the cleavage. In 1936 the then Ambassador Hans Luther spoke, and last year Ambassador Hans Dieckhoff. This year the program contained the usual item, reserved for a German diplomat: "Communication of Greetings From the Fatherland."

When the moment arrived, Dick Voss, president of the New York Turnverein, as master of ceremonies, said in German: "There is no official representative bringing greetings from the Reich for reasons which are beyond our control." The situation was fully explained only by later speakers. Meanwhile Mr. Voss said he would reverse the usual order and send greetings from the German-

Americans, although none had been received. The greetings sent by Mr. Voss and a review of the German-American position represented at German Day later by Mr. Hoffmann included expressions of satisfaction with the position of Germany under Hitler, and with the acquisition of Austria and Sudetenland.

The distinction between the speakers in Madison Square Garden last night and the absent Kuhn forces seemed to be that German Day speakers were for Nazism within the boundaries of Germany, while the Kuhn forces have repeatedly declared that only the Nazi philosophy can rescue America from communism and the Jews.

There was only one swastika flag in the decorations of Madison Square Garden last night and Jews were not mentioned. Representative Samuel Dickstein and the Communist leader Earl Browder were both mentioned, but there were no hisses or boos.

Nevertheless, at the German national anthem, consisting of the combination of Deutschland Ueber Alles and the Nazi Horst Wessel song played in succession, about one-third of the hands of those present were raised in the official Nazi salute. Nobody at any time cried "Heil!"

In these things the meeting was a

moderated edition of previous German Days. The attendance likewise had fallen from the 20,000 of the past years to something about 7,000. The police protection was cut from 600 men to 250.

Representative Fish paid tribute to the historic loyalty of those of German blood who have settled in this country. They have been the bulwark of American institutions, he said, particularly in such Western cities as Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee and St. Paul. Fifteen thousand of them, he said, died for America in the last war.

Referring to the recent crisis, Mr. Fish said "the Old World nations were ready last week to commit suicide over Czechoslovakia" but for one statesman who appeared in the person of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

He said Mr. Chamberlain's first flight to Germany was far more important than Lindbergh's flight to France. He counseled Germans and Czechs, as well as Poles, Hungarians, Italians, French and English, not to carry on their "old quarrels" here.

He took occasion to say that President Roosevelt was making a "pathetic attempt" to claim credit for keeping the peace over Czechoslovakia.

"That is just a lot of political humbug," said Mr. Fish.

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