

Milwaukee Nazis Call Off Meeting

M.D.R.
10/7/38

(Special to the Record)

MILWAUKEE, Oct. 6.—The Nazi-dominated German-American Alliance "postponed" its Auditorium rally scheduled for Saturday night, Paul Knauer, spokesman for the group, announced today.

Labor and liberal forces hailed the Nazi retreat as a victory for democracy, forced by the overwhelming pressure of the people of Milwaukee against Nazi usurpation of the democratic traditions of Concord Day for propaganda purposes.

Margaret LaBudde, secretary of the Milwaukee League for Peace and Democracy, stated that her prediction at the time of the March 26 anti-Nazi demonstration of 6,000, that the Nazis would never meet again in the Auditorium, still holds good.

The demonstration called against the scheduled Nazi meeting, which was endorsed by the County CIO and many other groups, will be transformed into a victory celebration, with a torch-light parade, mobilizing at the New Court House tomorrow at 7 P. M.

Dr. Erich von Schroetter, national secretary of the German-American League for Culture, and Harold Christoffel, president of the Milwaukee County CIO, will be among the speakers.

Circuit Judge John C. Kleczka ordered the auditorium board to rent the hall to the Nazis in a hearing Tuesday. The board had previously refused to grant the use of the hall to Nazi groups. The board will meet Saturday to decide whether to appeal the case.

Paul Knauer, 2611 W. Lisbon Ave., vice-president of the Alliance, declared following the court ruling, that Asst. City Attorney Charles Babcock, who represented the board, was under the influence of Communism.

PERFECTLY NEUTRAL

Babcock then replied:

"We are perfectly neutral. We are not Communists. Nor are we Nazis. I don't know what Knauer is, but I have my suspicions. I don't think much of him."

The American League for Peace and Democracy immediately began to issue circulars calling for a demonstration for peace on the New Court House steps for 7 p. m. Saturday.

The circular declares:

"The Nazis in Milwaukee, in order to deceive the people, are celebrating Concord Day. What a perversion of our progressive traditions that these agents of Hitler, persecutor of all people, commemorate the day on which the first Germans, fleeing from religious persecution, came to our country."

Elmer Luchterhand, county secretary of the Communist Party, commented on Knauer's charge that the board's attorney was dominated by the Communists. He said:

"Knauer's statements are typical of fascist attacks on the foreign born and the whole labor and progressive movement. His attack on the city's attorney is intended to bludgeon that office into agreement to open the doors of public institutions to the Nazi bund with the propaganda of religious and racial hatred."

Six months ago when the Bund tried to hold a meeting in