

NY Times  
12/7/38

**GERMAN-AMERICANS**  
**WARNED BY RIDDER**  
*NY Times*  
**They Face Danger of Becoming  
Despised Minority, He Says**

Victor Ridder, publisher, will print a statement in today's New Yorker Staats-Zeitung und Herald, for the information of its German-language readers and to "answer a number of inquiries from societies and individuals who are old friends and true friends, asking why I am going to speak at Carnegie Hall at the [anti-Nazi] protest meeting, Friday night."

"There is in this situation," Mr. Ridder writes, "no need for denouncing the German people. There is, however, a real need for saying to our non-German fellow citizens that we are not in sympathy with a program so far at variance with the American concept of liberty and freedom of religious worship."

"Let me say in the first place that the German-Americans face a situation nearly as serious as we faced in 1917 and 1918. I fear that the average German-American has no real knowledge of the depth of feeling as it now exists in America. Once let an aroused American public opinion turn on the German-American element under the mistaken impression that we are in sympathy with the religious persecution now carried on in Germany and we will pay a fearful price for this mistake."

"I don't want our element to be in this position. I have seen too much of this in the war days to ask our people to go through this again. In the present state of public opinion here, it would take very little to make of our element a despised minority. It will also take only a little common sense and courageous expression of our ideals as Americans to protect our standing in our communities."