

Bund Secretary Admits Plan to Defy Draft Law

Says Leaders Met, Bound Selves to Fight Selective Service Act

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 (N. Y. News).—The one-time secretary of the German-American Bund swore today in Federal Court that national leaders of Nazi infiltration in the United States met here in August, 1940, and bound themselves to fight the Selective Service Act.

The witness was William Luedtke, who has turned against his fellow plotters and is testifying for the Government in the trial of 25 Bund big shots on charges of conspiracy to violate the draft law. Luedtke already has pleaded guilty.

Names Leaders

He testified that the most important of the leaders at the 1940 meeting were Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, who succeeded Fritz Kuhn as national "fuehrer" after Kuhn was sentenced to Sing Sing as a thief; Gustaf Elmer, former Bund treasurer, and Wilbur V. Keegan, Bund counsel.

Luedtke said the leaders condemned the draft act and several other then but recently enacted laws as discriminatory against German-Americans and tending to eradicate German-American culture in the United States. Kunze, he said, declared that the Bund would have to fight this law, "and we all agreed."

There was virtually no possibility of disagreement, Luedtke indicated, because under the "leadership principle," which guided the Bund, all members were subject to the "absolute power" of Fuehrer Kunze.

Translates Commands

William L. Wener, of the FBI, was called to the stand to translate 51 "Bund commands," which the Government contends were laid down by Kunze. Command No. 34 was the one directing defiance of the draft law.

Luedtke said Kunze's commands and opinions were put into legal phrasology by Keegan and transcribed by a stenographer, Miss Anita Hintzmann, for the minutes of the meeting.

Luedtke testified that the record of the meeting is now missing from the minutes book that he kept. He and Miss Hintzmann, he said, were the only ones who had keys to the file cabinet in which the book was kept.