

# Nation-Wide Hunt Launched For Bundists

## Naturalized Members Face Loss of Citizenship And Internment

By the Associated Press

The Justice Department officially designating the German-American Bund as the "official spearhead of the Nazi Fifth Column in America," started last night a Nation-wide drive to revoke the citizenship of all naturalized persons who were active in the organization, class them as enemy aliens and intern them.

Attorney General Biddle, in announcing the action, said that "we are moving at once to clean out this source of danger to our national security."

Although the Bund announced its "voluntary" dissolution shortly after Pearl Harbor, Biddle said, "its spirit and functions continue up to the present day behind the innocent mask of cultural societies, singing and athletic clubs. The Bund, in reality, is far from dead."

In the last decade, Biddle asserted, the "Bund has been an arm of aggressive Nazi world diplomacy—an instrument of the German 'Ausland organization' with headquarters at Stuttgart. Its avowed policy has been to resist integration of Germans into the American system; to retain the complete loyalty of its members to Germany; and to establish in the United States a branch of the German Reich.

"The aims and purposes of the Bund are wholly inconsistent with American citizenship. Loyalty to one excludes loyalty to the other. It therefore follows that those Germans who became naturalized American citizens and at the same time turned actively to the affairs of the Bund are guilty of fraud. Their oaths of allegiance were not honestly taken."

The courts would be asked to denaturalize "these disloyal bundists," Biddle said, on the basis of investigations made by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for many months concerning the activities of "hundreds" of former members of the Bund. Biddle added that in view of the large number of cases expected to arise from the country-wide action, United States attorneys had been instructed to petition the courts to consolidate the cases in each judicial district as far as possible.

If a defendant fails to contest a petition for revocation of citizenship—"as has been the case in the majority of denaturalization proceedings thus far"—his citizenship will be revoked by default.

Biddle said that about 500 denaturalization cases had been completed, were pending in courts or were under active consideration by Federal attorneys. He noted that the Government already had acted against several former members and officials of the Bund, including Fritz Kuhn, August Klapprott and Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze. The latter, however, is not subject to denaturalization since he is a native-born citizen.

The Justice Department, outlining the background of the Bund, said its history stems back to a German patriotic society, "Teutonia," formed in Detroit in 1924 by Fritz Gissibl, a German alien "who was with Hitler in the Munich beer hall 'putsch.'" During the middle and

late twenties there were in this country "scattered outposts" of the National Socialist Labor Party or Nazi organization, giving "open and vigorous support to the rising Hitler movement," the department said.

In 1933 these groups were brought together by Gissibl and Heinz Spanknoebel into an organization called the "Friends of the New Germany." The department said that the name was changed to the German-American Bund at a convention in Buffalo, N. Y., in 1936 because, quoting one unidentified Bund official, "Friends of the New Germany, sounds too German and makes people shy and keeps them from joining."