

BURKE, NLRA FOE, BACKS 'SHIRT' GROUP

Khaki Force Aims At Violent Coup; Got His Aid

By Federated Press

SEATTLE—Senator Edward R. Burke (D., Nebr.), chief Congressional spokesman in the fight on the Wagner Act, was a paid-up member of the fascist Khaki Shirts of America during the years 1932-1934, the Washington New-Dealer, pro-labor weekly, revealed in a copyrighted story in its Sept. 14 issue. The story was by Terry Pettus, editor and Guild member.

Burke, a member of the House of Representatives when he joined, was also a financial angel of the first American Nazi group. For at least three months he paid the rent for the Omaha headquarters of the Khaki Shirts.

The Washington New-Dealer's story was based on original documents and statements supplied by Lloyd H. Brown, a war veteran and former Nebraska state organizer of the Khaki Shirts. Brown quit the movement in disgust when he learned that Dr. Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's minister of propaganda, was sending letters of instruction to the American group.

[Burke "praised without stint the accomplishments of the Nazi regime in Germany" on his return from a trip there, the New York Herald-Tribune reported in a shipboard interview on Sept. 30, 1933.]

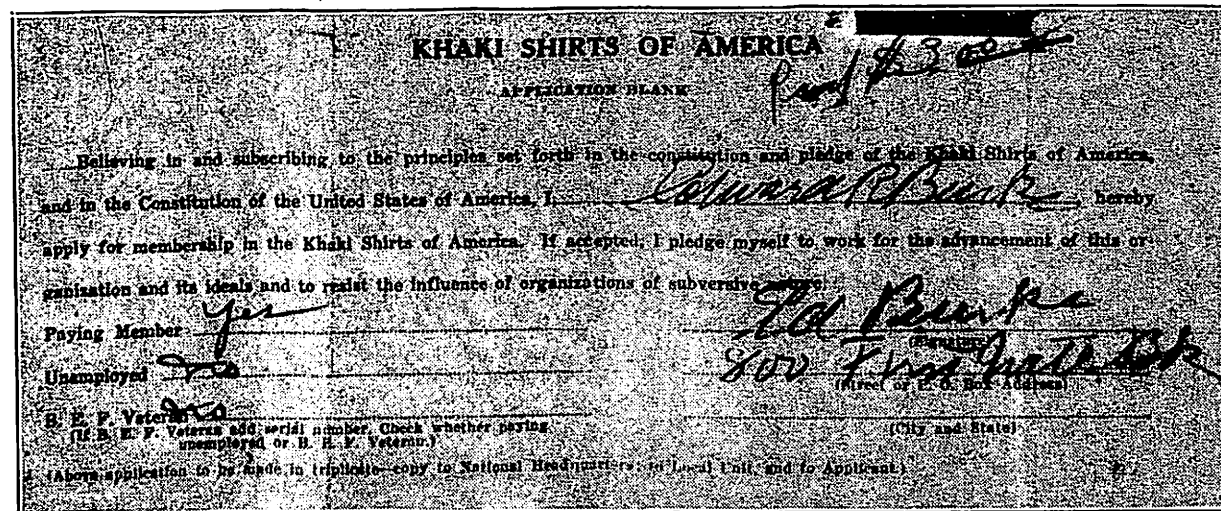
Among the evidence in Brown's possession and pictured in photostats in the New-Dealer, is Burke's signed application blank, the record of his dues payments and a duplicate membership card.

Stored Up Arms

The Khaki Shirts changed their name to the American Nationalists in the spring of 1934. In October, 1933, the organization planned a march on Washington, after accumulating a quantity of arms and ammunition. The raid fizzled out, and Arthur J. Smith, the leader, later was imprisoned in a perjury case.

Smith's conviction came after his aide, F. Moffer, pleaded guilty to manslaughter when implicated in the murder of a young student, Anthony Fierro, at a fascist meeting in Astoria, Long Island, on July 15, 1933.

Brown said that he recruited 9,743 members for the Khaki Shirts before he quit. During the World War he served under Maj.



WHAT AN NLRA FOE REALLY WANTS: U. S. Senator Burke, leading spokesman in the fight against the Wagner Act, helped finance the "shock troops for an American dictatorship." Photo shows his signed application, exposed by the Washington

Gen. Van Horn Moseley (then a captain), and he told how Moseley played a leading role in organizing the fascists. Of Burke, the former organizer said:

I first met Edward R. Burke when he was chairman of the school board. He was elected to Congress in 1932 and to the U. S. Senate in 1934. It was after his election to Congress that Burke joined the Khaki Shirts. His application was taken by Christian Nelson, local organizer assigned to Sarpy County.

Congressman Burke joined the Bellevue, Nebr., local first and his membership was later transferred to Omaha. Nelson turned over Burke's signed application to me. I still have Senator Burke's application card as well as the other office records dealing with his membership.

In conversations with Ellison (R. B. Ellison, national organizer), I was told that the Khaki Shirts would be a sort of shock troop affair to set up an American dictatorship.

The initiation fee for the Khaki Shirts was \$3 and you can see the notation on the original Burke application. As state organizer I received \$1, and another dollar was kept in the local, and national headquarters received the other.

During the winter of 1932, recruiting went on rapidly. Some of the public meetings were held in the city hall. For a time we

had a room, for use three nights a week, in the Labor Temple. The rent was \$45 a month and was paid for at least three months by Congressman Burke. He personally gave the cash to me on these occasions.

The Khaki Shirts were operated along strict military lines. We knew that we were preparing to use force to accomplish our ends.

New Dealer. The paper's expose also shows photostats of Burke's letter to one of the organizers, written on his Congressional stationery, and other documents.

Nebraska AFL Hits Burke; Sets Up Body to Fight Him

LINCOLN, Nebr.—(FP)—Pres. Roosevelt was indorsed unanimously for a third term by 150 delegates at the Nebraska State Federation of Labor convention. The resolution also expressed the federation's approval of the "aims and objectives of the New Deal."

Administering a sharp slap to Sen. Edward R. Burke (D.), leading foe of the Wagner Act, the state AFL pledged itself actively to oppose his renomination in 1940 and "to work for the election of a representative of the people who

will truly reflect the sentiments of Nebraskans." The resolution called for the formation of a speakers' corps which will tour the state in opposition to Burke's renomination.

Two weeks earlier the Iowa-Nebraska States Industrial Union Council (CIO) had taken similar action on the third term and on Burke. Agreement of Nebraska labor on these two important political questions paves the way for joint action during the 1940 campaign.