

SENATOR BURKE WAS MEMBER OF FASCIST GROUP

SEATTLE (FP)—Sen. Edward R. Burke (D., Nebr.) was a paid-up member of the fascist Khaki Shirts of America during the years 1932-34. The Washington New-Dealer revealed in a copyrighted story in its Sept. 14 issue.

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.

Has Burke's Application

Among the evidence in Brown's possession is Burke's signed application blank, the record of his dues payments and a duplicate membership card, all from the files of Nebraska state headquarters.

The Khaki Shirts changed their name to the American Nationalists in the spring of 1933. 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, was later imprisoned for perjury.

Smith's conviction followed a guilty plea to manslaughter by his aide, F. Moffer, who was implicated in the murder of a young student, Anthony Fierro, at a fascist meeting in Astoria, Long Island, on July 15, 1933.

General Organized Fascists

Brown said that he recruited 9,743 members for the Khaki Shirts before he quit. During the World War he served under Gen. Van Horn Moseley (then a captain), and he told how Moseley played a leading role in organizing the fascists. Of Burke, constant enemy of the Wagner act and a professed admirer of Hitler, 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.

"In conversation 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. I was told that prior to his taking office as President that Roosevelt was approached at his Hyde Park home but flatly refused to have anything to do with the movement.

"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.

"As I remember, Congressman Burke spoke at three or four of our meetings that winter and Gen. Moseley addressed one.

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