

Merry-Go-Round

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By DREW PEARSON and ROBERT S. ALLEN

This is the story of how paid German agents have used for their own purposes a very active member of Congress and through him have flooded the country with Nazi literature.

The Congressman is Stephen A. Day, Republican Representative-at-large from Illinois, who on April 16, 1933, sent a telegram to Adolf Hitler congratulating him on his rise to power.

Since then a book written by Congressman Day entitled "We Must Save the Republic" and consisting largely of attacks on Great Britain have been flooding the country. This book is published by a firm registered at the State Department as paid by Nazi agents.

Congressman Day has been sending out telegrams (at Government expense) attempting to exonerate himself from Nazi connections. However, in view of the fact that the Merry-Go-Round interviewed Day two months ago, well before his book was published, and called his attention specifically to his Nazi affiliations, it would appear that he went into the Nazi publishing game with his eyes open.

At that time (June 15) Congressman Day had just delivered a radio broadcast demanding that Great Britain be made to pay her back war debts. One interesting thing about his speech was the fact that it was mimeographed and distributed to newspapers by the Columbia Press Service, an organization close to George Sylvester Vlerick. Vlerick is registered as a paid agent of Nazi Germany and is one of the most active Nazi propagandists in this country.

Flanders Hall

One of the most interesting things about Congressman Day's activity is the firm which published his book. It is called "Flanders Hall: Publishers, Scotch Plains, N. J." Investigation proves that this is none other than the residence of Prof. Adolf Hauck, instructor of German at Plainfield High School, the house being located at the corner of Flanders and Front Streets in Scotch Plains. No publishing or printing establishment is connected with the house.

Investigation also shows that the children of Prof. Hauck are registered at the State Department as the officers of the Flanders Hall Publishing Company and that they are financed by George Sylvester Vlerick, who in turn is listed as the agent of Giselher Wirsing, of Munich. Dr. Wirsing is the author of the famous "100 Families That Rule the Empire," being a severe castigation of Great Britain. This book also was published by Flanders Hall.

The interesting thing about these books is not merely the fact that they were published through Nazi agents, but the manner in which they were subsequently promoted by American isolationists and propagandists, some probably ignorant of the Nazi connection, some apparently quite satisfied to be in the Nazi orbit.

For instance the publicity issued by Flanders Hall lists several Senators and Congressmen as boosting "The 100 Families That Rule the Empire." They are: Senator Hiram Johnson (R.) of California; Senator Ed Johnson (D.) of Colorado; Senator Aiken (R.) of Vermont, and Representatives Dewey Short (R.) of Missouri; Thomas D. Winter (R.) of Kansas; Louis

Ludlow (D.) of Indiana; Melvin Meigs (R.) of Minnesota, and Oscar Youngdahl (R.) of Minnesota.

Their testimonials are played up as reasons for inducing the public to buy the book, together with the appeal "Order These Pro-American Books." But there is nothing on the Flanders Hall circular to say that these "pro-American books" are promoted by Nazi agents.

Promotional Backing

Even more interesting perhaps is the fact that just after Congressman Day published his book under Nazi aegis, the Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter, official organ of the German-American Bund, proceeded to heap praise on it. "A practical handbook of information about the Anglomaniacs," was the way the Bund described it, "and how the cards are stacked by the Administration so the people cannot learn the truth."

At about the same time Day's book was played up by William D. Pelley's Roll Call, which the Dies Committee has branded as a fascist organization. The Roll Call of August 11, just after the Day book was published, carried a front-page article "Will Stephen A. Day Save This Republic?" while the issue of August 4 carried a long article on Congressman Day.

At about the same time, G. Allison Phelps, a radio broadcaster in Los Angeles, began plugging the Day book over the air, reading excerpts of it and asking listeners to send him \$1 in order to obtain a copy of the Congressman's book.

Meanwhile Congressional Record reprints of Day's speeches are being mailed out by Christian Front and similar organizations, while the latest document to come from the Illinois Congressman is a questionnaire on war. This is a cleverly worded ballot recently exposed by Malcolm Bingay, of the Detroit Free Press, which has been mailed at Government expense all over the country.

It has all the earmarks of being inspired by the same source which inspired the Illinois Congressman's other attempts to confuse the public with loudly acclaimed patriotism.

(Another column on how Nazi propagandists have used mem-

bers of Congress will follow