

Words by Lawrence Dennis, Music by Dr. Goebbels

By Sender Garlin

Lawrence Dennis, pseudo-intellectual theoretician for fascism, admires Norman Thomas, John L. Lewis and Jim Farley. He would like to see John J. Bennett, choice of the Christian Front, anti-war forces elected governor of New York state.

I learned these facts in the course of a two-hour interview with Dennis in his office on the 15th floor of the swanky office building at 205 West 42nd Street in New York.

Having called Dennis to request an interview in connection with the suspension of his pro-Axis "Weekly Foreign Letter," I took advantage of our meeting to ask him a number of other vital questions.

Dennis has dropped his "Foreign Letter" whose contents have closely paralleled the Axis line because he feared federal authorities would ultimately crack down on him. This was the inference from numerous statements—some direct, some guarded—which Dennis made in the course of our talk.

Having seen the Silver Shirt fascist, William Dudley Pelley, sentenced to 15-year prison term and indictments against numerous other Axis friends in this country, Dennis evidently thought it the part of wisdom to alter the strategy of his campaign against America's war drive.

WHO SHIELDS HIM?

Regardless of Dennis' new techniques for circumventing the law, one must wonder why Attorney General Francis Biddle and the Department of Justice haven't at this late date indicted this dangerous foe of American democracy.

In reciting the history of his "Foreign Letter," Dennis admitted that the publication was founded in 1938 by two Russian white guards. "I took it over as a personal favor to them," the brown-shirt philosopher explained casually.

The "Foreign Letter," to which "leading businessmen" subscribed at \$24 a year, has published a running commentary on the war calculated to spread distrust of the Roosevelt administration and of the United Nations.

Dennis, the highbrow philo-

sopher of our native fascists, is the American counterpart of Dr. Alfred Rosenberg, the Nazi "ideologist" whom Hitler has assigned to subjugate the Russian population in Soviet conquered territory. Tall, vigorously built, saturnine, Dennis is a man in his late forties whose shadowy career is far from being an open book.

He talks to a single individual as though he were addressing an audience. His most casual remark—diffuse and flowing—is uttered in the Ciceronian style which he affects.

Dennis is a Harvard graduate, has worked for a number of Wall Street firms, and has served in the U. S. consular service in Latin America. Recently he applied for a captaincy in the U. S. Army but was turned down when news leaked out that he had applied for a commission.

How genuine is his interest in the war against the Axis is betrayed in his book "The Dynamics of War and Revolution," written not long before America's entry into the war. Proclaiming that he would be willing to function as a "war propagandist," Dennis declared sneeringly that he is "ready to lie . . . for my country."

Dennis' tribute to Norman Thomas came in response to my question about his conception of "an ideal America."

"It would be a broadly socialized state capable of economic sufficiency," he replied.

When I inquired whom he considered exponents of his "philosophy of the future," the author of "The Coming American Fascism," a book expounding a fascist program for the U. S., replied: "Stuart Chase and Norman Thomas."

It must be acknowledged that Mr. Dennis' feeling of kinship for Norman Thomas is thoroughly justified.

The character of the would-be American Fuehrer's (national) Socialism is indicated by Dennis' assertion, freely offered, that:

"I am an imperialist—for physical and material benefits. I believe in imperialism in Latin-

America, for example, because we can get away with it. But not in the Far East and elsewhere because we can't get away with it. You see, I have no moral scruples against an Anglo-American world. Only, I don't think it's practical."

LAUDS LEWIS, FARLEY

John L. Lewis and Jim Farley came in for praise from Dennis when, in discussing "bankruptcy of leadership in the country," the totalitarian ideologist informed me of the "dearth of able men" hereabouts.

Dennis consoled himself, however, with the thought that Lewis and Farley were "two of the smartest men in the country."

When you say "Farley" you have to follow it up with "Bennett," so I asked Dennis whom he favored in the coming New York State gubernatorial elections. Dennis wasn't too quick to commit himself. He said he didn't follow state politics. But finally he acknowledged that as a critic of FDR he naturally leaned toward Farley. Another question brought the reply that from this point of view, of course, he would like Bennett to win the governorship.

When I probed Dennis on his views on the opening of the Second Front, he whipped out the now-familiar formula about "leaving it to the military experts."

As for Japanese aggression and treachery, "there wouldn't have been any Pearl Harbor if we hadn't sent an ultimatum to Japan!"

Even more brazen than this utterance was Dennis' statement in his "Foreign Letter" of June 11, 1942: "Heads, the Nazis win and we lose; tails, the Nazis lose and Russia wins." Hence, the American people have no interest in defeating the Axis!

Dennis calmly admitted writing articles for "Today's Challenge," edited by the Nazi propagandist, Dr. Frederich Auhagen who was recently fined and sentenced to prison for failure to register as a foreign agent.

"Yes, I wrote two articles for Auhagen. A third one was turned

down because it was too leftist. But Hamilton Fish also wrote for him," Dennis defended himself.

"Was not George Sylvester Viereck an associate editor of Auhagen's paper?" I asked.

When Dennis acknowledged that he was I asked him what he thought of Viereck's conviction as a Nazi agent.

"Oh, it was just a technical conviction," he said blandly. He hastened to add that he "hardly knew" Viereck.

When I asked whether it wasn't a fact that Dr. K. O. Bertling, director of the Amerika-Institut in Berlin expressed high regard for him in a letter to Manfred Zapp, manager of the Nazi propaganda news agency, Trans-Ocean, Dennis answered:

"Oh, I happened to meet him in Berlin in 1936 when I was traveling in search of information. I took him out to lunch and he thought I was a big shot since I worked in Wall Street."

Dennis' glib alibi does not dispense of the awkward fact that Herr Zapp, who received the glowing recommendation of the American fascist from Bertling was fined for failure to register as a Nazi agent.

Dennis doesn't want any "interference" with the appeaser press. Himself a bitter foe of the Roosevelt administration and the war policies of the United Nations, he argues that suppression of the appeaser and defeatist press "would be bad for the effective conduct of the war."

When I asked him specifically about the Chicago Tribune, the New York Daily News and the Washington Times-Herald, Dennis lost his blandness for the first time and declared that "if these papers are, banned it would establish standards and criteria that would bar all critical writings."

I then reminded him of Vice-President Henry Wallace's recent warning against the Fifth Column and its "sabotage of the American mind."

Dennis' voice went up one octave.

"This 'sabotage of the mind' stuff is a dangerous concept. If that is accepted then nothing can be said except what is considered safe by Roosevelt and his friends."

Clearly Dennis wants immunity, not only for the defeatist press, but for himself. He wants to be able to play up the Axis and deride America and its allies as he did when he declared, "dialectics govern policy in the United Nations; strategy governs policy in the Axis."

FAVORS AXIS VICTORY

Can he be expected to look with favor upon Wallace's warning against "sabotage of the mind" when he has written—as he did 11 days after Pearl Harbor—that "Hitler attacked Russia because he thought he could win before Winter and thus acquire both future security and future supplies from Russia. HAD HE WON, THE DECISION, WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN WISE." (Our emphasis.—Ed.)

After his passionate defense of Viereck, Auhagen, and other of their cronies I asked him if he could provide me with a definition of "Fifth Columnist."

"That phrase Fifth columnist is very loosely used," Dennis orated, seeking to conceal his rising anger.

At another point, when I steered the discussion to direct Nazi agents, Dennis surprised me by announcing:

"Some people say I get Nazi money. Of course, that's absurd. But if people buy my books I don't inquire about their political philosophy. If I got an order for 1,000 copies of one of my books I'd be very happy indeed."

It seemed to me at the moment that he doth protest too much.

Toward the end of our talk—when I asked him point blank:

"You admit, don't you, that you are a fascist?" Dennis lost his suave manner.

"Fascism is a sort of catchword," he said, his voice rising. Then he added, with heavy sarcasm:

"I've never done anything to advance fascism in this country. I never even voted for Roosevelt."

I decided this was a good curtain line. I picked up my notes



Nazi and His Pal: The gentleman on the right is Lawrence Dennis, exponent of fascism for the U. S. This photograph was made at the 1937 Congress of the Nazi Party in Nuremberg, Germany. An examination of the picture will show that an attempt was made to destroy it. The "friend" on the left is Baron Ulrich von Guenther, formerly secretary of the German Embassy and ex-chief of Nazi Gestapo operations in the U. S. He is currently tucked away in this country as an enemy alien. Guenther was Goebbels' pay-off man who furnished convicted Laura Ingalls with propaganda material and money.

and prepared to leave. During the two hours of the interview I had been absorbed in the job at hand. But as I accepted (professionally) the limp hand of the totalitarian "ideologist" I felt I was alone in a room with a member of the Schutzstaffel, the black-shirted Elite Guard of the Nazis.

"Elite"—that's the word. For in his most recent book "The

Dynamics of War and Revolution, Dennis explains he does not write for "those who will be stampeded into war like cattle into a corral"; he writes for "all the elite." But by elite he, of course, means the fascists. Hitler applies the same term to his most trusted thugs: the Schutzstaffel.

Dennis' current war "philosophy" is simple: why fight totalita-

rianism abroad "when we are developing it right here in America"; the war will last 20 or 30 years; it is a sad, hopeless situation; whatever we do we will be defeated.

It is a formula for defeat for America that could not be improved upon even by that "intellectual" cutthroat, Dr. Joseph Paul Goebbels, Nazi Minister of Propaganda.