

SMASH DETROIT'S FIFTH COLUMN!



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I

Commando Raids Are Not Enough!

DETROIT can win or lose the war. Detroit is the most important center in the nation for the production of arms and munitions. Not only our armed forces, but the armies of Great Britain, China, and the Soviet Union need our tanks, planes and guns. Weaken the contribution to the Allied war effort of the hundreds of factories and the hundreds of thousands of workers in Detroit and Michigan, and the cause of democracy everywhere is imperilled.

If no Fifth Column, willing to do the work of the Axis, were present and at work in Detroit, Hitler would have to create one.

Unfortunately for us, and fortunately for Hitler, there are men in Detroit whose contempt and hatred for democracy is such that they are willing to give aid, comfort and assistance to the enemy to achieve their goal of a fascist America.

These traitors have at their disposal organizations, money, printing presses, radio time, and friends in Congress. They use these facilities in an ever-increasing assault on the unity and morale of our people. They seek to poison our minds with Hitler's propaganda of defeatism. They encourage their followers to acts of disruption and sabotage. They strive to block the full mobilization of our people for an all-out war.

Not long ago President Roosevelt drew an analogy between our present-day Fifth Columnists and the Quislings of another American generation, the Copperheads of the American Civil War, northerners who opposed and obstructed the Union's war against the Slave Power of the South. When Abraham Lincoln, during the darkest days of the Civil War, adopted measures to suppress the Copperhead Fifth Columnists, faint-hearted Americans protested that his actions might lead to loss of civil liberties for all. Lincoln answered them:

"Under cover of 'liberty of speech,' 'liberty of the press,' and 'habeas corpus,' they (the rebels) hoped to keep on foot amongst us a most efficient corps of spies, informers, suppliers and aiders and abettors of their cause in a thousand ways . . . Must I shoot a simple-minded boy who deserts, while

I must not touch a hair of the wily agitator who induces him to desert? I think that, in such a case, to silence the agitator and save the boy is not only constitutional, but withal a great mercy."

Now, as then, timidity and hesitation may be fatal. If we allow fear of our ability to distinguish between legitimate exercise of freedom of speech and Nazi-inspired sedition to paralyze us, then we run the risk of total annihilation of our liberties at the hands of a conquering enemy.

The bitter anguish of the enslaved peoples of Europe has taught us the meaning of a Nazi victory; freedom obliterated—unions smashed and labor leaders shot or tortured in concentration camps—political parties suppressed—books burned—schools shut down—pastors driven from their pulpits—racial, national and religious minorities brutally persecuted. In nation after nation, law and justice has been replaced by violence and terror.

To retain our Bill of Rights—yes, to retain the precious freedom to extend democracy in fuller measure to all within our midst and to all nations—we must win this war.

In this critical Spring and Summer of 1942, the United Nations make ready, not only to defend themselves from assault, but to guarantee victory by carrying the attack to the enemy. By weakening the vital home front, Detroit's Fifth Column endangers that offensive.

The banning of *Social Justice* and the indictment of Parker Sage, Garland Alderman and Virgil Chandler are Commando raids against the enemy positions in Detroit. These actions merit the fullest support of public opinion.

But Commando raids are not enough. It is time to seize the initiative, and launch a full-scale attack to destroy Detroit's Fifth Column—*now!*

II

The Treason of Father Coughlin

IN THE AUTUMN of 1936, few Americans were aware that Father Coughlin's oratorical support of the lofty concepts of Americanism, Christianity, and social justice was but a cloak for a plot to establish a fascist dictatorship in America.

At that time Coughlin led a great national political organization; his radio audience numbered millions of depression-weary Americans; he was sponsoring a "third party" candidate for the Presidency of the United States. His power and prestige were at their peak.

A few weeks before Election Day, 1936, when he was confidently predicting that the Presidential candidate of his Union Party, Rep. William Lemke, would poll ten million votes, Father Coughlin was privately interviewed by Dale Kramer, a well-known farm magazine writer. There Father Coughlin confessed his lack of faith in democracy, and indicated his political orientation for the future. He said:

"One thing is sure, democracy is doomed. It is Fascism or Communism. We are at the crossroads. I take the road to Fascism."

The 1936 elections demonstrated that democracy had far more virility than Coughlin had supposed; his candidate garnered only a few hundred thousand votes. His National Union for Social Justice faded out of the picture, and Coughlin retired temporarily from the air.

But not for long! Within a year Coughlin reappeared on the national scene with a new demagogic appeal, based upon the technique which Hitler had found successful. Anti-Semitism, the organization of "Christian Front" storm troop bands, and open support for international fascism replaced the issues of domestic "reform" upon which he had for the most part previously campaigned.

The April 3, 1939, issue of *Social Justice* displayed prominently on its back cover an idealized portrait of Adolf Hitler. The accompanying text said:

" . . . it should never be forgotten that the Rome-Berlin axis is the great political rampart against the spread of Communism. As such, the Rome-Berlin axis is serving Christendom in a peculiarly important manner."

Shortly afterward, Coughlin followed this open bit of pro-

Hitler propaganda with a radio address entitled, "The Popular Front vs. The Christian Front," in which he informed the world of his choice of weapons in the struggle to come:

"Rest assured we will fight you in Franco's way, if necessary. Call this inflammatory if you will. It is inflammatory.

"... I understand that units of the Christian Front are forming and have formed in New York City and elsewhere. Does that mean anything to you Bolsheviks?"

This threat to fight "Franco's way" was not an idle threat. Concentrating their strength in New York City, Christian Front bands began a campaign of open terrorism directed primarily against the Jewish people. They stole guns from the National Guard armories (with the help of Guard officers who were members of the Front). They drilled in their use, they manufactured bombs, they drew up elaborate plans for bombings and assassinations. Members of Congress were among their intended victims.

The arrest in January, 1940, of 18 Christian Fronters in New York, and their subsequent trial, threw the spotlight of national publicity on their activities and forced them into relative obscurity, from which they later emerged to conduct street meetings, assault Jews in the streets and the subway stations, and to distribute the magazine *Social Justice*.

Coughlin Helps A Labor 'Quisling'

In Detroit, the activities of Father Coughlin's followers had taken a somewhat different turn, and this is significant when we remember the critical importance of our present-day Battle for Production: the Detroit equivalent of New York's "Christian Front" battles took place, not on the streets, but in the factories and union halls.

Some of the most important chapters of the post-depression struggle of the workers in America's mass production industries to organize unions of their own choosing were taking place in Detroit. Father Coughlin, whose "16 Principles of Social Justice" included a "just annual living wage" and "labor's right to organize," did not stand aloof from the fray.

Many leading Catholic churchmen were then supporting the effort of the CIO to organize the automobile workers. Father Coughlin was a conspicuous exception. Coincident with the publication of full-page advertisements by automobile companies, the employer-inspired Citizens' Committees and Councils of Industrial Peace, Coughlin assailed both the workers' right to strike and the CIO. He joined in the chorus of anti-labor voices crying "Communism" at every effort of the workers to obtain a just annual living wage which he professed to support. In *Social Justice* Coughlin said:



AXIS PROPAGANDA: "Social Justice" repeats Hitler's chief propaganda line, the "Crusade against Communism", failing to mention that Hitler uses anti-Communism as a cloak for attack on democracies.

"Strikes are neither Christian or American."

"American labor cannot afford to join or support the Communist-dominated politically manipulated CIO."

What sort of "unionism" Coughlin favored may be judged by the formation in 1937 of the "Workers' Council for Social Justice, Incorporated," a Ford company union.

In 1937 the President of the United Automobile Workers, CIO, was Homer Martin, whose name later came to represent to labor what the name "Quisling" means to anti-fascists. In August, 1937, Martin invited R. J. Thomas (now President of the UAW-CIO) to drive with him to Father Coughlin's Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak. At the Shrine Coughlin made an amazing offer. He promised to arrange an interview with Henry Ford to arrange for the organization of the workers of the Ford Motor Company. Coughlin offered his services as intermediary on condition that the UAW withdraw from the "Communist" CIO.

Thomas would have no part of the deal; but Martin continued to meet with Coughlin. It was a year later that Homer Martin suspended five officers and executive board members of the UAW, as part of a Red-baiting campaign that had already divided the union into warring factions and which was before long to end in the creation of a rival Martin-led organization.

Subsequently, Martin's followers in the various locals turned

to gangsterism and violence against the legitimate union. Raids on meeting halls by armed thugs became common. In the forefront of the Martin goon squads, together with known Klansmen, Black Legion elements, and imported gunmen, were the followers of Father Coughlin.

When Petain and Laval betrayed France, it was because their hatred of the French workers exceeded their love of their country. It seems clear from the histories of Father Coughlin and other Fifth Columnists whose careers we shall presently review, that anti-labor propaganda is as much a part of the arsenal of Fifth Column weapons against democracy as anti-Semitism or any other divisive tactic; and that efforts to split the unions from within and prevent them from making their important contribution to the victory effort are also on their program.

Apostle of Defeat

Up until the very day it was banned Father Coughlin's *Social Justice* continued to serve the Axis. It not only reflected enemy propaganda, but served as a weekly instruction sheet to all Fifth Columnists, pointing out how best to hamper the war effort.

"... get into every patriotic organization in America," *Social Justice* counselled its readers on January 12, 1942. "Join up with Civilian Defense . . . overwhelm them with your numbers and capture every office."

Similarly, *Social Justice* instructed its readers in the technique of utilizing the national need for sacrifice as propaganda for disunity and defeatism. If there is a shortage of rubber, blame it on the Administration and the "British Rubber Racket" (*Social Justice*, April 13.) If, to preserve our nation's independence, our soldiers must risk their lives on foreign fields of battle, tell that "Hundreds of thousands of American and English boys, possibly will sacrifice their lives to save Malaya—and incidentally to preserve the investments . . . to swell the purses of the international bankers."

Consider this quotation, printed in *Social Justice* on March 23, 1942, at a moment when Hitler was preparing to launch a "peace offensive" on the diplomatic front while his generals made ready for stepped-up Spring warfare:

"How long will this war be pursued in America? Will Americans graciously bow down to all the totalitarian decrees which will restrict their sugar, their motor cars, their oil, their apparel, their way of life and their pocketbooks simply to satisfy the ambitions of those who translate victory by the complete overthrow of their enemies? Or will the American people want to listen to reason and terminate a

war which now no one can win completely, and which Americans can lose completely?"

Tokio stresses the idea of a "race war." Japan pretends to be the leader of the "darker races" in a war against "white domination." At the very moment when American and Filipino troops were fighting together in their heroic effort to save the Philippine Islands from Japanese conquest, and at the moment when Japan launched its "race" appeal to the Filipinos to desert their American allies, *Social Justice* appeared on the streets with this headline emblazoned across its cover:

"YELLOW-WHITE WAR MAY BE NEXT"

The article said: "*Today 300 million Orientals—believe it or not—are beginning to chant Britain's requiem in the words, 'Asia for the Asiatics.'*"

It must not be assumed, however, that the Catholic church has endorsed Coughlin's Axis program. For years Father Coughlin has made use of his church affiliations as a shield for his anti-American crusade. Recently, the Most Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, made it plain that *Social Justice* was not a Catholic publication, and that in fact Coughlin had falsely assured his church superiors that he had severed his connection with it. Archbishop Mooney's statement, together with the denunciations of Coughlin by an ever-increasing number of leading Catholic churchmen, served to expose Father Coughlin as a traitor, not only to his country, but to his faith as well.

Fifth Columnists like Coughlin, in a desperate effort to save themselves, are appealing to the American people in the name of "freedom of speech" and "freedom of criticism." Honest and constructive criticism, offered in the interests of victory, must not only be permitted, but encouraged. It will strengthen our war effort. However, there is a clear line of distinction between freedom of criticism and tolerance of service to our enemies.

In the case of Coughlin, Attorney-General Francis Biddle revealed that "A study of the 10 major themes which have been broadcast by our enemies since December 1, 1941, as reported by the Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service of the Federal Communications Commission, shows a close relation of material contained in *Social Justice* to those themes during approximately the same period."

The Attorney-General then pointed out that "What in a single instance might be excused as a careless overstatement may by constant repetition become evidence of deliberate and intentional distortion of the truth."

Father Coughlin stands accused of deliberate and intentional lying, along the identical themes of Nazi propaganda, in a "sus-

tained and systematic attack on certain of our activities directly related to the war effort, as well as on public morale generally." Americans must recognize that this sort of attack is not "free speech" but *direct and substantial military aid to our enemies, more destructive in Detroit than enemy bombers.*

If Nazi warplanes were to appear in the skies over Detroit tomorrow and unleash a load of death and destruction, we would rise up in just anger to destroy our enemy. We would re-enter factories and offices with a new, fresh and unparalleled determination to work, fight and sacrifice for victory. It was that way in London, in Chungking, in Moscow. The enemies in our midst are attacking us now with the high explosives of defeatism and the incendiary bombs of race hatred and disunity to destroy our morale and disrupt our production. They are accomplices to the murder by the Axis of our sons and our brothers on the field of battle. Shall we regard them with less anger, and fight them with less vigor?

By silencing *Social Justice* we have destroyed one enemy weapon. Yet the man who wielded that weapon is still free. Father Coughlin has committed sedition against America, and we have no guarantee that the man who said "I take the road to Fascism" will not find other methods of resuming his attack upon us.

The people of Detroit should demand that Father Coughlin be indicted, arrested, tried, and lodged in a prison cell where he belongs.



Father Coughlin playfully musses Gerald L. K. Smith's hair. Pals during the Lemke-Union Party campaign, Smith now defends Coughlin's "right" to spread Axis propaganda.

III

Gerald L. K. Smith Takes Over

WHEN the United States Government took action against Father Coughlin, Gerald L. K. Smith decided that liberty in America was in grave peril.

The chairman of the Committee of One Million called his followers together for a special meeting at the Maccabees Building Auditorium on April 24, summoning them with printed admission tickets upon which was printed the challenging question: "Will we permit the Reds to Jail Father Coughlin?"

An overflow crowd of more than 1,000 persons turned up. The admission tickets had promised them "the most fearless address ever made in Detroit," and they were keyed up to that expectation. When Smith thundered, "The Reds, the Communists, and the Christ-killers have vowed they'll never rest until Father Coughlin and Gerald L. K. Smith are behind bars," a thousand faces shone with horror and hate.

When Smith painted a hair-raising spectacle of Reds overrunning America with copies of *The Daily Worker* and the *New Masses*, plotting to get Earl Browder out of jail and to put honest patriots like Coughlin, Smith, Lindbergh, and Nye in prison, and to sell America to the Soviet Union and/or the British Empire, a collective shudder swept the hall.

When Smith, raising his booming voice to a shout, swore: "The day that they take Father Coughlin or Gerald L. K. Smith away on a train, is the day when there won't be a Communist newstand or bookstore left in Detroit!" there wasn't a man or woman in the room who wasn't ready to march out and do violence.

When Smith proposed that the Committee of One Million call a giant mass meeting at Olympia, and invite Father Coughlin to speak on "any subject closest to his heart," the enthusiasm of the audience knew no bounds.

'Social Justice' Becomes 'Cross and Flag'

In defending Father Coughlin, Smith is defending an old-time friend and fellow-worker, whose technique the former Louisiana rabble-rouser imitates. Both Coughlin and Smith cloak their defeatist efforts behind a shield of religion; Smith's present battle-cry is "Christ First in America." Many of Smith's followers are present or former members of Coughlinite organizations, and were avid readers of *Social Justice*. When the Government took steps to suppress that periodical, Gerald L. K. Smith announced

the publication of his new monthly magazine, *The Cross and the Flag*. The week after *Social Justice* announced its suspension, the downtown street corners in Detroit formerly occupied by salesmen for the Coughlin weekly were taken over by salesmen for *The Cross and the Flag*. In effect, the new magazine put out by Gerald L. K. Smith is a continuation of *Social Justice*; both peddle exactly the same line of pro-Axis propaganda.

Before examining in detail Smith's present activities, it is worth while to review briefly some of the little-known facts about the demagogue's background—facts about which Smith, for obvious reasons, says very little today.

Skeletons In the Closet

Gerald L. K. Smith started his career as a pastor of a fashionable church in Shreveport, Louisiana, but soon abandoned the ministry for a more lucrative profession. He continued, however, to use the title "Reverend" until recently. The noble work for which he gave up his church was to help Huey Long build his "Share the Wealth" movement—that corrupt and dictatorial machine by which Long hoped to catapult himself to the Presidency. Smith's share of the wealth of Louisiana, according to his associates of the period, was \$650 a week.

In 1933, on the day that Hitler took power in Germany, William Dudley Pelley had a "vision," according to his own testimony, and the "vision" led him to form the first avowedly pro-Nazi organization in America, the Silver Shirt Legion. The holder of membership card No. 3223 in the Silver Shirts, and, in fact, an organizer for the movement, was the Reverend Gerald L. K. Smith.

It was on August 5, 1933, that Smith wrote to Fuehrer Pelley:

"By the time you receive this letter I shall be on the road to St. Louis and points north together with a uniformed squad of young men comprising what I believe will be the first Silver Shirt storm troop in America."

Pelley stuck with his Silver Shirts, and as a result now awaits trial by the Federal Government for sedition. By 1936, however, Pelley's lieutenant had moved on to a bigger and more respectable crusade—to "drive that cripple out of the White House." The person referred to is President Roosevelt; the phrase is Smith's own, spoken from the platform of the anti-Roosevelt "grass roots convention" sponsored by Governor Gene Talmadge of Georgia. In those days Smith shocked many people by the violence of his language against the President of the United States. "Communist" was the mildest of his epithets.

The anti-Roosevelt crusade brought him to Michigan for the first time. He came seeking an alliance with the Townsend movement and Coughlin's National Union for Social Justice. Together they planned the Union Party, with Rep. William Lemke as Presidential candidate. In Illinois, Coughlin and Smith supported as candidate for the Senate one Newton Jenkins, notorious anti-Semite and frequent speaker at Bund meetings.

The newly-formed alliance was prematurely shattered when the wires of the United Press brought a sensational story to Detroit. It appeared in the *Detroit News* on October 20, 1936:

Fascist Move to 'Seize U. S.' Is Launched by Rev. Smith

NEW YORK, Oct. 20.—(U.P.)—The Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, follower of the late Huey P. Long who recently showed motion picture audiences how he did his "rabble-rousing act," announced today the formation of a fascist organization to "seize the Government of the United States."

His aim, he said, is a following of "10,000,000 patriots" willing to lay down their lives to save the country from "an international plot to collectivize it."

Smith said he already had financial backing to carry on the organization for a year, and more than 1,000 "politically potent leaders" in various parts of the country who await his orders.

"Four hundred business men in 22 key cities, worried over the future of private property, have pledged to contribute 1 per cent of their 1935 incomes to make America vigorously nationalistic," he said.

In New York alone, he said, he has 40 financial backers, one of them with an income of \$280,000 a year.

The organization will combine the best features of Long's political science, and the economics of Fr. Charles E. Coughlin and Dr. Francis Townsend, Smith said.

"I want to save the details for a radio speech," he said, "I will deliver it after the political campaign, when there will be less competition for national attention."

Townsend, horrified, made haste to repudiate Smith, and from Chicago John Nuystul, national campaign manager of the Union Party, issued a statement terming Smith's action "so completely at variance with the principles of the Union Party that I cannot too strongly denounce both Smith and those back of him who are responsible. I want it distinctly understood that Smith in no way represents the Union Party of Mr. Lemke."

In other words, Smith was ejected from Coughlin's movement for unpardonably allowing himself to be exposed as a Fascist.

From 1937 to 1939 Smith devoted his talents to another "crusade," this time against organized labor. He hired himself out to anti-labor employers wherever his services were "needed." In

April, 1938, it was Mansville, New Jersey, where his intervention forced the National Labor Relations Board to postpone an election at the Johns-Manville Corporation, and charge the employer who imported him with intimidation and coercion against the workers. (Lewis H. Brown, President of Johns-Manville, has been a heavy financial backer of Smith's Committee of One Million.) In June, 1938, it was Akron, Ohio, where Smith fought the United Rubber Workers of America. In August, 1938, it was Cleveland, Ohio—then Toledo . . . From city to city Gerald L. K. Smith used his technique of fantastic and violent Red-baiting against working men and women seeking their democratic right to organize in unions of their own choosing.

With this background Gerald L. K. Smith came to Detroit.

Union Busting Pays Profits

No other city in the United States had kept a welcome mat out for Gerald Smith very long. Cleveland had said goodbye to him with the comment: "He smells of Fascist Ku Kluxers a mile away." (*Cleveland News*, August 5, 1938.) Akron had shown him the door with this parting shot: "He still impresses us as having Fascist ants in his pants." (*Akron Beacon-Journal*.) He had left Chicago in November, 1938, unable to pay a hotel bill in the amount of thirty-five dollars and forty-one cents.

But Detroit had played host to Fritz Kuhn when the Bund Fuehrer, working as a chemist at the Ford Motor Company, was building his storm troop band. Detroit had given birth to the Black Legion. Detroit had nurtured Coughlin. Smith stayed and prospered. He made his living by waging war upon the United Automobile Workers Union.

While President of the UAW, Homer Martin was clandestinely taking money from the Ford Motor Company as payment for a Red-baiting campaign to split and destroy the labor union in the auto industry. Meeting with Martin secretly, speaking at anti-CIO rallies arranged behind the scenes by Martin lieutenants, was Gerald L. K. Smith. In no time at all Smith was able to obtain finances to enable him to begin weekly radio broadcasts over Station WMBC, and within a few months over Station WJR, most expensive in Michigan. According to the testimony of two Martin adherents who broke with him and joined the UAW-CIO, much of the material for the anti-labor propaganda Smith used on the radio was obtained directly from Martin and his industrial backer.

In November, 1939, when the Chrysler workers were on strike, Smith sponsored a huge anti-CIO rally at Olympia, called upon the workers to give up the strike, and termed the leaders of the union a "ruthless set of gangsters."

Despite Martin, Smith and Company, Detroit's auto-workers organized under the leadership of the UAW-CIO. War came and Gerald L. K. Smith became a Crusader for Peace. Meetings of the Committee of One Million, as Smith euphemistically named his organization, featured as speakers some of the leading members of the isolationist bloc in Congress. Curiously, most of those who spoke for the Committee of One Million were the same Congressmen who have since found themselves in hot water as a result of their co-operation with the extensive propaganda activities of Mr. George Sylvester Viereck, Nazi agent.

Smith's contacts with the "peace movement" in Chicago were of an even more suspicious nature. On a number of occasions Smith spoke at meetings of the Citizens Keep America Out of

PELLEY'S WEEKLY

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The Pelley Publishers

P. O. Box 1778 Asheville, N. C.

August 5, 1936.

L. M. Birkhead,
3425 Baltimore Ave.,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Birkhead:-

Answering your letter of the 3rd regarding Mr. Gerald L. K. Smith's connection with the Silver Shirts, which you say he denies, we have on file certain letters and telegrams from him received during July and August 1933. The letters are all written on Silver Shirts of America letterheads and signed by him. His registration number as a member of the Silver Shirts was 3223 and his wife's number was 3220.

The enclosed extracts from these letters will undoubtedly serve your purpose.

Sincerely yours,

The Pelley Publishers,

H. E. Martin
H. E. Martin,
Executive Director.

The Executive Director of William Dudley Pelley's publishing house confirms Smith's connection with pro-Nazi "Silver Shirts".

War Committee, whose chairman, Avery Brundage, was so openly anti-Semitic that the America First Committee quietly dropped him from its national committee. One of the Citizens Committee's leaders was Captain William G. Grace, with whom Smith occasionally appeared on the same platform. Grace was a contributor to William Dudley Pelley's anti-Semitic and pro-Hitler magazine, *Roll Call*.

Today Gerald L. K. Smith operates a large, mysteriously-financed organization from an expensive suite of offices covering the entire twentieth floor of the Industrial Bank Building; he employs more than twenty office workers to get out his extensive mailings; he broadcasts regularly over Michigan's most expensive radio station, WJR; he is planning a campaign to capture the Republican nomination for the United States Senate; and he publishes a new monthly magazine, *The Cross and the Flag*. Pearl Harbor or no Pearl Harbor, war or no war, Smith still continues to expand his activities for appeasement and disunity.

He still baits labor and labor's leadership. Witness the following quotation from the April 19, 1942, issue of *The Cross and the Flag*:

"Walter Reuther is the much publicized labor leader and will bear watching. Many of the suggestions made by Mr. Reuther sound plausible at first. Upon careful investigation they fit into the fine mosaic pattern for State Capitalism and Communism. . . . It is bad enough to have certain politicians kow-towing to the Reuthers, and we may have to swallow that, but we are not going to turn guns over to the Reuthers and their goon squads."

Another article in the magazine bears the headline, "*We Are Against Hillman!*"

Smith's speeches contain tirades against union workers as "crap-shooting, dishonest, Communist loafers," whom he contrasts with "old-fashioned Christian workers," who follow the leadership of Gerald L. K. Smith.

"Let's Bring Our Soldiers Home"

But, in general, the main enemy, as Smith sees it, are the "Reds" and the Administration. In deference to the requirements of national unity, Smith dares no longer directly to accuse the President of being a Communist, as he did before Pearl Harbor. But he hints at it mightly.

In the main editorial of the first issue of *The Cross and the Flag* (April), entitled "We Take Our Stand," he has this to say about President Roosevelt and his advisors:

" . . . we old-fashioned Americans do not propose to be city-

slicked by boondoggling bureaucratic politicians, Communists, British imperialists, (the Union Now Gang), and a thousand and one other porch-climbers, 'confidence' men and 'snake oil' salesmen who are working day and night on conspiracies designed to compel us to swallow a hundred poison pills in the name of wartime emergencies."

Smith advises the United States to withdraw its armed forces from the fields of battle to our own shores, and suggests that to aid our Allies with raw materials or munitions of war is equivalent to treason. This is a clear statement of the military policy of the Axis.

Like Coughlin, Smith counsels his followers to "offer himself to civilian defense." In the manner of all other enemies of the war effort, Smith tries to undermine confidence in Civilian Defense by Red-baiting it, and adds:

"Eleanor Roosevelt apparently thought this organization was to be just a great big fine boondoggling scheme. We, the people, must insist that this organization . . . be kept clean."

Smith makes a special effort to keep his skirts clear of the charge of anti-Semitism. Occasionally, however, the mask slips. One such time was the crisis in the ranks of the appeasement movement caused by Charles A. Lindbergh's speech at Des Moines, Iowa, when he openly espoused the doctrine of "Jewish war guilt" so popular among Fascists the world over. Numerous America First followers, even ardent ones like William Randolph Hearst and the late Hugh Johnson, had hastened to repudiate Lindbergh's anti-Semitism.

However, to eliminate any confusion in the minds of his followers, Smith raised the subject at the next rally of the Committee of One Million, on September 16, 1941. Here is how the *Detroit Times* reported it:

"Smith, a chairman of the meeting, gave the opening address in which he lauded the stand by Lindbergh against British propaganda, Jewish groups and the Roosevelt administration, who, he alleges, are dragging this country into war."

"For the benefit of the press, I want a rising vote on how you people feel on this question," Smith said. 'We think it was just dandy and we want them to know so.'

"The entire audience arose cheering."

One of Smith's chief lieutenants, and a frequent chairman of Committee of One Million meetings, is the Reverend Leland L. Marion, of Pontiac, Michigan. He and Smith are good friends and close co-workers. During the entire week ending December 7, 1941, the Rev. Gerald Winrod, "the jayhawk Fuehrer," publisher

of the violently anti-Semitic, pro-Nazi "Defender," in Wichita, Kansas, was in nearby Pontiac, holding daily "lectures." Members of the National Workers League and other Fascist groups in Detroit made trips out to Pontiac to meet with him.

To large audiences Winrod thundered against Jews, Communists and the Administration; distributed copies of his literature; showed motion pictures reflecting the Fascist Franco's point of view on the Spanish war; and paid high tribute to Coughlin and Gerald L. K. Smith.

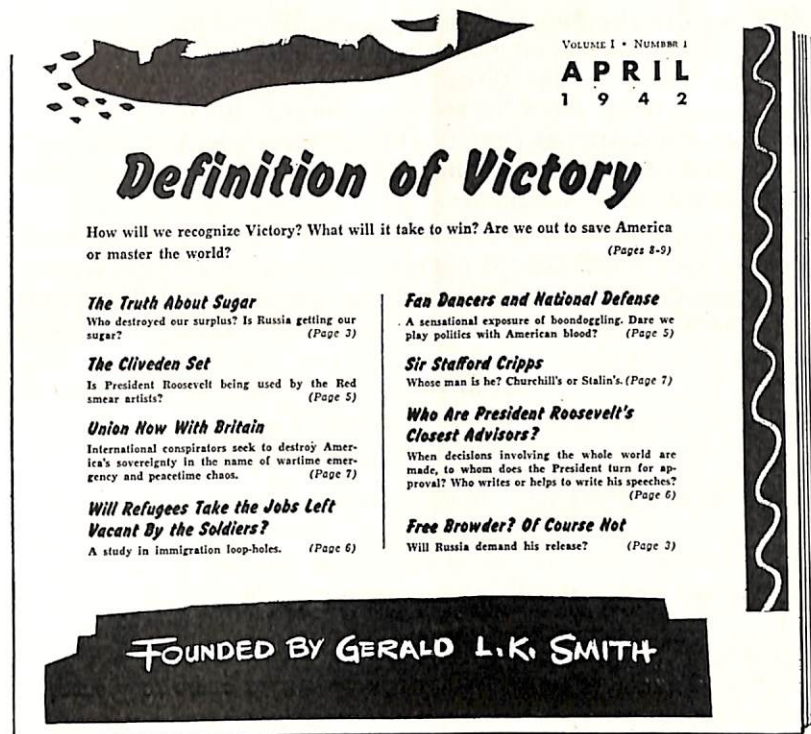
Winrod's host during the entire week was Smith's friend and co-worker, Rev. L. L. Marion. Winrod's "lectures" were held in Marion's "Christian Temple."

Since the disbandment of the America First Committee's Detroit chapter, the Committee of One Million has become the co-ordinating center for the activities of all Detroit's pro-Hitler elements. Many of the attendees at Smith's meeting are known Coughlinites. Members of the National Workers League attend regularly. Until it was banned, *Social Justice* was sold at the door, and sometimes *inside* the meetings, in strict violation of the rules of the school which the City of Detroit obligingly makes available to Smith for his meetings. Outside the door, after the meetings, William R. Lyman, Detroit's most active peddler of anti-Semitic literature, would take his stand and distribute his pamphlets, leaflets and stickers. Many of the attendees of the Committee of One Million meetings were good customers, and bought plentifully of the output of Pelley, Edmondson, and the rest of the nation's leading publishers of pro-Hitler literature.

Clare Hoffman Lends A Hand

Gerald L. K. Smith has some well-developed contacts in the Congress of the United States. Senator Robert R. Reynolds, the Fascist-minded North Carolina isolationist, who is chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, is a "very good friend" of Smith, the chairman of the Committee of One Million is fond of boasting. Another is Senator Gerald P. Nye. Another is Rep. Clare Hoffman of Michigan, noted for his violent labor-baiting and also for his hate for President Roosevelt and his foreign policy, and who is currently in considerable embarrassment because his speech, "Don't Haul Down the Stars and Stripes," which hints that President Roosevelt is a "Judas," was purchased by the thousands from Hoffman by so great a number of pro-Nazi organizations.

Nye and Reynolds both sent greetings to the first issue of *The Cross and the Flag*, and subsequently, in an interview with the United Press, endorsed its contents. Hoffman has inserted Smith's material in the *Congressional Record*.



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Definition of Victory

How will we recognize Victory? What will it take to win? Are we out to save America or master the world? (Pages 8-9)

The Truth About Sugar
Who destroyed our surplus? Is Russia getting our sugar? (Page 3)

The Cliveden Set
Is President Roosevelt being used by the Red smear artists? (Page 5)

Union Now With Britain
International conspirators seek to destroy America's sovereignty in the name of wartime emergency and peacetime chaos. (Page 7)

Will Refugees Take the Jobs Left Vacant by the Soldiers?
A study in immigration loop-holes. (Page 6)

Fan Dancers and National Defense
A sensational exposure of hoodlumming. Dare we play politics with American blood? (Page 5)

Sir Stafford Cripps
Whose man is he? Churchill's or Stalin's. (Page 7)

Who Are President Roosevelt's Closest Advisors?
When decisions involving the whole world are made, to whom does the President turn for approval? Who writes or helps to write his speeches? (Page 6)

Free Browder? Of Course Not
Will Russia demand his release? (Page 3)

FOUNDED BY GERALD L. K. SMITH

Titles of articles on cover of Smith's new magazine, "The Cross and the Flag", show plainly his intent to drive wedge between U.S. and allies, people and government. Notice he blames Russia for sugar shortage, hints Britain seeks to destroy American independence, that we are fighting to "master the world"; tries to link Roosevelt, Churchill, Cripps with Communism; tries to weaken morale of soldiers by hinting that refugees will steal their jobs. These false issues tally closely with Axis propaganda barrage, parallel "Social Justice" line.

Rep. Roy O. Woodruff of Michigan did an even greater service for Smith. He inserted the editorial, "We Take Our Stand," from which we have quoted above, in the *Congressional Record*, had thousands of reprints made, and sent them to Gerald Smith for distribution. Very nice of Mr. Woodruff to have the United States Government print up leaflets containing Fifth Column propaganda for Gerald L. K. Smith to distribute—at cost!

President Roosevelt made some remarks to a press conference a few months ago about a "Cliveden Set" in Washington. President Roosevelt named no names, but it's a pretty good bet that he had in mind men like those members of Congress who show no embarrassment in lending the prestige of their office to Fascist-minded opponents of the war effort like Gerald L. K. Smith.

The latest news is that Smith hopes to represent the people

of Michigan in the Senate after election day. One of the issues on which he will campaign is (of course), "100% loyalty to the war effort." Another is "Tires for Everybody." ("Take the rubber situation away from bureaucrats, international bankers and the rubber trust, turn it over to Henry Ford, and I'm willing to wager that we'll have tires by New Year's," Smith says.) Another is defense of Father Coughlin.

A prison cell, not a Senate seat, is the place for Gerald L. K. Smith. The more quickly the people of Detroit insist that enemies of America be treated as such, the more quickly will the day of final victory arrive.

IV The National Workers League Swings Into Action

IN 1938 THE Civil Rights Federation first called public attention to Parker Sage. In an educational bulletin entitled "The Fascist Threat to Labor," the bulletin reported:

"It is July 24, 1938. Swastikas are flying over the park, and a representative of the German government is calling upon the audience to support Hitler. The place is not Germany, or Austria, or even Czechoslovakia. It is right here, in the Detroit Creamery Park near Mt. Clemens.

"The next speaker is introduced as a representative of the UAW! His name is Parker Sage.

"Sage makes an attack upon Negroes and Jews, and calls Germany 'the most democratic country in the world.'

"Who is this Parker Sage? He is an expelled member of the Chevrolet Gear and Axle Local 235, UAW, expelled for being a stool pigeon . . ."

In the same year, Sage founded the National Workers League. Members of the new organization consisted principally of Bundists, former members of the Black Legion, Coughlinites, and like elements. Its purpose was to carry the Goebbels message into the ranks of the automobile workers.

At first the League tried to burrow its way into the labor movement through the Society of Tool and Die Craftsmen, Inc., a company union outfit headed by J. J. Griffin. For a period the League held its meetings in Griffin's office on the fifth floor of the Garfield Building at 4612 Woodward Ave., and used Griffin's mimeograph machine to run off its "newsletters." The Labor Day 1939 issue of the Tool and Die Craftsmen's official organ, the Craftmen's Clarion, carried the League's advertisement. At a recent meeting of the National Workers League, Sage boasted that in the small tool and die shop where he worked, he controlled enough votes among the 160 men in the shop to swing a pending NLRB election away from the "Subversive, Jew-ridden" UAW-CIO.

Today Parker Sage awaits trial in Detroit, charged with seditious conspiracy. Co-defendants with him are Garland Alderman, secretary of the National Workers League, and Virgil Chandler, executive vice-president of the Seven Mile-Fenelon Improvement Association, the organization formed to prevent occupancy by Negro war workers of the Sojourner Truth federal war hous-

ing project at Nevada and Fenelon Avenues in Detroit. All three are charged with conspiring to block execution of the laws of the United States and to deprive the Negro families of their civil rights.

What they did was to foster the organization of a "picket line" on the streets leading to the housing project, which on February 28 prevented by force and violence the families of war workers from occupying homes leased to them by the United States Government. Scores were injured in the bloody attack.

On Friday night, March 6, 1942, this subject was on the agenda of the regular meeting of the League, held on the second floor of the Humber Building, 13535 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park.

When Fascists Meet

The first speaker at the meeting was Garland Alderman, who until America entered the war, was secretary of the Oakland County chapter of the America First Committee. When the AFC disbanded, he became secretary of the League.

Alderman read a letter from George Deatherage, founder of the American Nationalist Confederation (official emblem, the swastika). The letter stated that Deatherage had just been fired from a job as chief engineer for a contracting firm building a United States Naval Base, where he had access to military secrets, and that his discharge was unfair.

A member of the audience commented: "The dirty Rosenfelt b.....d!", referring to President Roosevelt.

Alderman then read aloud from a circular currently distributed by the National Workers League:

"The idea of fighting for British Imperialism, making the world safe for Communism and for imposing the Jewish banking system on all peoples of the world in the name of the Atlantic Charter, written without legal authority by Roosevelt and Churchill when our Nation was supposed to be neutral, is neither patriotic or American."

Alderman then introduced the next speaker, Mr. Parker Sage.

"Churchill is almost finished," Sage began. "I'll give him six weeks; by that time the Japs will be down in Australia. The English will be broken completely. There won't be a kike left in the American nation a year after that. You won't be bothered by lousy niggers and hebe problem you have now. No, sir!"

Rambling on, Sage made references to Dorothy Thompson, Walter Winchell, and Eleanor Roosevelt, which were for the most part too obscene to be reprinted.



A few samples of seditious literature circulated in Detroit by the National Workers League.

But the climax of the meeting was yet to come. Sage announced "Ladies and gentlemen, I want to introduce the executive vice-president of that gallant organization of Americans who at this moment are fighting to keep dirty niggers out of the Sojourner Truth Homes here in Detroit.

"Here he is, the big fella, Virgil Chandler!"

"The big fella" outlined "the cause of the whites against the blacks in this here Detroit Federal Housing trouble." He explained his rise to leadership in the Seven Mile-Fenelon Improvement Association.

"You see," Chandler said, "it was nine months ago that the government begin to make up its mind who was going to live there, us who had been living there a long time, or the 'jigs.' Well, the 'jigs' got the Communists on their side and so you have a race riot."

Chandler concluded: "I came over to the National Workers League to get some help. Today the government decided, for keeps, they say, that the niggers was gonna live in the Sojourner Truth project.

"Well, we'll see about that. We are going to throw a picket line so thick about that place that there will be an eclipse of the sun. I want all you white folks who believe like us to be over there with whatever you can carry in your hands. If these blacks think they can bluff us, we're going to give them another Fourth of July."

The battle of Sojourner Truth was the fruit of three and a half years of activity by the League of sowing of race hatred. It had distributed anti-democratic leaflets and pamphlets by the thousands, at the gates of automobile plants and sometimes surreptitiously inside. Its members plastered the washrooms of auto plants with anti-Semitic stickers. They sought wherever possible to inflame hatred among white and Negro workers. They discussed at their meetings the possibility of organizing boycotts against Jewish neighborhood merchants.

Gutter Propaganda

The National Workers League's chief stock-in-trade is a mimeographed weekly "newsletter," containing propaganda studiously imitative of Goebbels. It insists that the "Jews" and the "international bankers" started the war (not Hitler), and that practically every member of the Churchill and Roosevelt governments is a "Jew."

A week after Pearl Harbor the newsletter said "The Asiatic war picture indicates the probably total defeat of Great Britain and the U. S. A. within sixty days." Its Christmas issue, 1941, stated: "The closing of the year 1941 brings us to another milestone in the march toward freedom of mankind from the shackles of Jewish internationalism."

Besides its newsletter, the League distributes huge quantities of treasonable material put out by Fifth Columnists throughout the country. William Dudley Pelley's "The Galilean," a weekly pro-Hitler magazine published in a pseudo-religious guise, was sold by the League until the Federal Government pronounced it seditious, banned its publication and arrested the publisher.

Another choice item handled by the League is "X-Ray," a four-page tabloid newspaper published by Court Asher, in Muncie, Indiana, now barred from the mails as treasonous.

One of the League's favorites, circulated in vast quantities, is a reprint of an item by Robert Edward Edmonson purporting to prove "Roosevelt's Jewish Ancestry." It contains an elaborate "genealogical chart" and comments: "Roosevelt draws inevitably upon his Semitic ancestry. It is, therefore, natural for him to be a radical as it is for others to be true Americans. HE IS NOT ONE OF US!"

Circulation of this American gutter version of Der Stuermer may not have been a crime *before* Pearl Harbor; but it certainly comes under the head of sedition now.

During the pre-Pearl Harbor days, the members of the National Workers League were also active members of the America First Committee. Alderman was secretary of the AFC's Oakland

County Chapter. Robert Vietig, executive secretary of the Detroit chapter of the America First Committee, was once a guest speaker at a meeting of the National Workers League.

Now, Gerald L. K. Smith has inherited the America First Committee's mantle, and all good National Workers Leaguers attend meetings of the Committee of One Million, faithfully.

Sage and Alderman are under indictment; but the remainder of the National Workers League's active membership is still at large. Some of them are working in plants producing war materials for America and its allies. For example, Charles Dexter, a former captain in the Black Legion and a labor spy, who has at times acted as chairman or secretary of National Workers League meetings, works at the Ford Motor Company. Permitting these avowed enemies of America to fill places on the war production lines is scarcely conducive to best results in the Battle for Production. Use of our laws against sedition and treason to place these people behind bars is wholly in order.

Mr. Dies Hits and Runs

A few months ago the people of Detroit were led to believe that some action was going to be taken about this nest of traitors. Agents of the Dies Committee raided Parker Sage's home on January 9, 1942, and announced that they had found proof that the National Workers League had distributed fifteen thousand dollars' worth of subversive literature in six months. They also seized the membership list of the organization.

Yet, once the headlines had been made, the Dies Committee did . . . nothing. Sage was set free, with results now well known. The members of the league continued to meet and carry on their activities.

Who is financing the National Workers League? Fifteen thousand dollars is a lot of money. It didn't come from the 500 members of the organization, which charges a mere 75c a month dues. It didn't come from Sage himself; his pay checks for the whole past year were found in his home, uncashed. Representative Martin Dies, who once made public the membership list of the American League for Peace and Democracy and has used it as a blacklist ever since, ought to explain to the American people why he is so secretive with the National Workers League's records.

Those who subsidize and finance Nazi activities are as guilty as those who use that money for subversive purposes. They, too, belong behind bars, where they can do no further harm.

The Klan Invades Democracy's Arsenal

THE NATIONAL headquarters of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan may still be at Atlanta, Georgia; but the principal field of the Klan's activities has actually been shifted from the deep South to Detroit. Since October, 1940, Michigan Grand Dragon Charles Spare has been able to boast to his chief, Imperial Wizard James A. Colescott, that there are more Kluxers in Michigan than in any other state in the nation.

It is no accident. Since the war began in Europe, the leadership of the Klan has been working night and day to give the program and tactics of their organization a thorough face-lifting, with an eye to strengthening its appeal to workers in the industrial cities of the North, particularly in those cities which were becoming major centers of war production, like Detroit.

The reasons for this shift are extremely important. When a secret organization with a program so similar to the program of the German-American Bund that Fritz Kuhn once offered to buy the Klan, bag and baggage, institutes a war-time campaign to form units in every department of every munitions-producing plant, it's time for the people of America, and the Department of Justice, to take notice.

There is already enough evidence at hand to make it clear that the Klan, always a specialist in the creation of domestic disunity and turmoil, has undertaken to place its unique talents in this field at the service of the Axis.

The history of the Klan in the 'Twenties is too well known to require extensive comment here. Preying on illiteracy, prejudice and insecurity, the Invisible Empire built up a powerful movement, captured control of the political machinery of a number of states, and in a reign of night-riding lawlessness became a major menace to civil liberties in many localities. In Detroit, the Klan became so strong that it was the major issue in the Mayoralty election of 1929, and the Klan-backed candidate won.

But the Klan's violent excesses, and the disclosure that its promoters were coining fortunes in graft, produced a public reaction that destroyed the Klan's power and temporarily drove it into obscurity.

Until the CIO began its drive to organize millions of workers, it was scarcely heard from. Then the Klan sprang suddenly to life. It plastered the South with placards proclaiming: "CIO IS COMMUNISM . . . THE KLAN RIDES AGAIN." Workers in the steel and textile mills were greeted with cross-burnings and

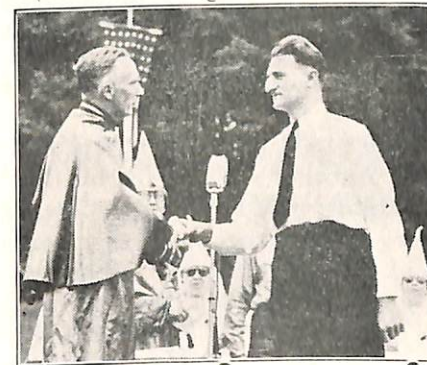
parades to discourage unionism. Floggings and tar-and-feather treatment and even murder of "labor agitators" became the order of the day.

This night-shirt vigilante movement found its most violent expression in Detroit, in the form of the Black Legion. Founded under the leadership of admitted ex-Klansmen, the Legion's program was scarcely distinguishable from that of the Klan, except that the Black Legion more openly espoused murder as its weapon. Two of its first victims were John L. Bielak and George Marchuk, organizers for the Auto Workers Union.

The Black Legion was exposed and smashed in 1936; but many of its members drifted back into the ranks of the Ku Klux Klan.

Anti-labor employers were not the only ones who saw potential usefulness in the Klan's program of dividing the workers by inciting hatred against Negroes, Jews, Catholics, and the foreign-born. On September 29, 1937, Fritz Kuhn, Hitler's American gauleiter, and Hiram W. Evans, then Imperial Wizard of the KKK, met secretly at the Hotel Bismark in Chicago. Kuhn there offered to purchase the Klan and merge his Bund into it, to effect a "native American" front for Nazi Fifth Column activities.

Evans rejected the offer. Nevertheless, when two organizations are so basically similar in program, it would be strange if they failed to pursue parallel paths. They not only traveled in the same direction, but on at least one occasion they held a joint public meeting of Klan and Bund units. On August 18, 1940, at the Bund's camp at Andover, New Jersey, Bund leader August Klapprott shared honors on the speakers' platform with Arthur H. Bell, Klan Dragon for New Jersey, and Edward James Smythe, an intimate associate of virtually every nationally known Fifth Column leader in America.



Bund leader Klapprott and Klan Dragon Bell shake hands on the speaker's platform at joint rally at Bund's Camp Nordland.

In 1939, a new Klan figure appeared on the national horizon—genial, ruddy-faced, pudgy James A. Colescott, ex-veterinarian from Terre Haute, Indiana. He was a man of ideas and of action, and he promised a four-year “administration of action” in defense of the interests of the “native-born, white, Protestant, Gentile population.”

Meantime, the Klan in Detroit was pursuing its anti-union aim by throwing its support behind the attempt of Homer Martin to wreck the UAW-CIO by Red-baiting and factionalism. One of Martin's chief lieutenants was Harvey Hanson, of whom we shall have more to say.

By May, 1941, Colescott's streamlined program was ready to move into high gear.

Early in May of 1941, Charlie Spare and several of his associates motored down to Atlanta to attend the Imperial Klouncilium, or annual convention, of the Ku Klux Klan. Important decisions were made at this meeting. One was that the Klan would immediately start to raise a million dollars for a giant nation-wide “Americanization” program, with such innocuous and popular slogans as “Unity” and “Americanism” as its theme. Another was that the Klan would concentrate its activities in vital war industry and army camps. A third was the singling out of Detroit for special efforts.

Returning home, Spare sent out an urgent call for the top Kleagles and Klansmen to assemble in special Klonvocation at the Danish Brotherhood Hall at Twelfth and Forest in Detroit. There Spare and the guest of honor, Imperial Wizard Colescott, outlined the newly adopted program.

Instead of fighting the union openly, all Klansmen were to join and work from within the UAW-CIO. A military style of organization was adopted. Klansmen in each factory department were to make up a “squad” to be headed by a “corporal.” Corporals were to report to a “lieutenant,” who was to be responsible for an entire division of a plant. The lieutenants in turn were subordinate to a “major.” Each industrial unit such as Ford, General Motors, Chrysler, and Briggs, was to have a major in charge. Heading the entire set-up would be “General” Harvey Hanson, former aide to Mr. Homer Martin.

Another striking innovation in Klan activity was explained at this secret meeting by Colescott in these words:

“Klansmen must carry on an investigation of every man in the department of the plant where he works. This has to be carried through the entire state, yes, the entire nation. We must know his politics, his nationality, religion, what he thinks, or anything else connected with him.”

All the information thus gathered, Colescott explained, was to be entered in triplicate on cards, one copy to be filed by the Klan. Colescott failed to explain what would happen to the other two copies.

It was also decided to start classes for its members in parliamentary law, blue-print reading and other subjects—knowledge useful for penetrating the unions.

Finally, Colescott disclosed that the Klan would take its phoney message of “Americanization” and “Unity” directly to the public through the radio.

With this elaborate machinery the Klan would be ready to commence a tremendous recruiting drive. Five thousand new members a month was not to be considered too high a goal.

Not mentioned at the May 18 Convention, but actually an important part of the Klan's program, was a plan to establish working relationships with certain employers to assure Klansmen of key jobs. Whether or not the Klan's private Gestapo system was to be made available to employers in return for such favors, we will know only when a thorough investigation is made.

This program soon brought results. Its effects began to be felt in the factories, among the nationality and racial groups in Detroit and in the unions. In April, 1942, Packard Local No. 190,

★★★ LISTEN ★★★
to
KU KLUX KLAN
AMERICANIZATION
★ PROGRAM ★
MONDAY EVENING
★★★ 7:15 P. M. ★★★

This sticker announced Detroit Klan's recent attempt to utilize radio for message of hate and disunity under the guise of “Americanization”. After four broadcasts, public protest forced Klan off the air.

1400 W. J. L. B. 1400

UAW-CIO, placed Frank Buehrle, leader of the KKK at Packard, on trial. The specific charge against Buehrle was slandering another member of the union in the course of a local election campaign. But a lot more than that came out.

Curt Murdock, President of Packard Local, described before the trial board the visits Buehrle and another Packard Klansman, Simon Patton, had made to his office on a number of occasions. On one such occasion, Murdock left the door of his office open, by pre-arrangement, so that the other officers of the union in an adjoining room could verify what took place.

This is what occurred, in Murdock's words:

"I showed Buehrle the 12-point program I was going to present to the local meeting. Embodied in this program was the civilian defense, the sale of defense bonds and stamps, the conversion and seniority plan, and many other things that the local leadership felt was essential to the (Victory) program.

"Buehrle said, 'Well, I would go easy with that plan.'

"I told him, 'Nuts . . . this program is going to be presented.'

"At that time he threatened me that the Klan would be out to get me; and this can be verified by witnesses."

"Q. What reason did he give for not carrying out the program, for example, on the defense bonds?"

"A. (Murdock continuing): 'He said this wasn't a popular war, and the men in the plants would object strenuously to the sale of bonds. He says, 'What's going to happen to the money after the war is over? The government will beat us out of it.'"

How "strenuously" the workers of Packard "objected" to the sale of defense bonds by the Local was brought out by the Financial Secretary of the local, Adam Poplawski:

"I noticed from the returns that came in from the plant, in the department in which there was Klan forces in operation the amount collected was considerably smaller than that in departments where there was seemingly no Klan activity."

"Pit Race Against Race"

But it was not only through the sabotaging of the sale of defense bonds and other phases of the union's Victory program that the influence of the Klan made itself felt in a serious way.

Several months ago two Negro metal-polishers were transferred in accordance with union seniority rules from civilian to war production at the Packard plant. The transfer was greeted

by a small but loud group of workers with the threat of a strike unless the Negro workers were removed. For months the union was kept in an uproar over the issue. Work on vital aircraft and marine engines was slowed down.

James Lindahl, Recording Secretary of Packard Local, No. 190, testified at the trial of Frank Buehrle:

"In my opinion, Brother Buehrle was the organizer of all the anti-Negro sentiment in the plant. He was the organizer of the threatened riot in the polishing room in defense, which compelled the steward to send two Negro polishers back to their original department. The Klan was responsible for building up the anti-Negro sentiment, so that you had in their very hall, expressions against the Negro people, expressions against permitting them their democratic rights under the constitution and under the by-laws of this organization. The Klan was responsible, because every member of the Klan was among the most vocal and most vicious in attacking the notion that Negro workers should have the right to go on better jobs, transfer onto defense. The Klan was the spearhead.

"Then we openly fought the Klan, exposing the membership, denounced it, and consequently all members of the Klan ran for cover. We found that with them had gone all the organized opposition to the Negro. As a consequence, these two same Negro polishers were quietly transferred onto defense last Tuesday. There was no disturbance, no undue commotion, and today they are working in perfect harmony, in perfect peace, side by side with white workers."

The Ku Klux Klan systematically utilized anti-Negro prejudices among the rank-and-file in order to disrupt production and to create disunity and turmoil.

It has happened in many other plants besides Packard. At the Dodge Truck plant, Negro workers were transferred to a war production job. Klansmen went upstairs, donned white sheets, came down into the department and drove the Negro unionists out of the plant. At Chevrolet Gear and Axle, a leading Klansman saw to it that "at the request of certain employees" a separate washroom was opened for Negro workers. The Klan attempted to use this situation as a medium for disruption.

Numerous other instances like these, not only in Detroit, but in many other leading industrial centers of America, can be cited. In many cases the Klan succeeds in confusing honest workers by labelling those who oppose its policies as "Reds".

The UAW-CIO has adopted a vigilant and firm attitude to-

ward the Klan within its own ranks. Recently George Addes, Secretary-Treasurer of the International Union, wrote to the president of one of the local unions:

"The International is on record as utterly opposed to all such organizations as the Ku Klux Klan, which we have reason to believe is carrying on a subversive role in the defense industry. There is evidence that Nazi agents are now working through such undercover groups as the K.K.K.

"We must urge that you and your fellow officers take every precaution against disruption from these sources. As you probably are aware, the K.K.K. is growing steadily more active in a number of locals and definitely is a menace that must be fought."

R. J. Thomas, President of the UAW-CIO, stated the official position of his union toward the Klan when he said:

" . . . There is no room within the ranks of the UAW-CIO for the Ku Klux Klan or its activities. Efforts of the Klan to inject itself into our local unions should be resisted to the utmost by our membership and its officers. The UAW-CIO does not need the assistance of the Imperial Wizard Colescott or of any of his deluded followers. Colescott's charge that the CIO is in the hands of the Communists is merely the stock in trade of his racket.

"The UAW-CIO is an American organization and makes no distinction because of race, creed, or color. It will not tolerate Colescott and his associated bigots who if they had their way would divide our Nation and our union into warring groups. My advice to Colescott is to pack his bag. Detroit does not need him."

Poison For Soldiers and Sailors

The Klan carries its disunity not only into the shops but also into the training camps of the Army and Navy. Consider, for example, the campaign launched against the United Service Organizations by the Klan, in the August, 1941, issue of its official organ, *The Fiery Cross*:

"It must be remembered that the Catholics pushed their way into the army during the last war and set up their own recreation buildings and propaganda centers. . . . Again the Catholics have the official backing of the government at Washington, and millions of Americans are being called upon to give money to support the Catholic propaganda thru the USO which is dominated by the National Catholic Welfare Council.

" . . . Some people and many newspapers would like to test

one's patriotism by the amount given to support the Catholic propaganda centers in the military camps of the country."

In the same issue of the *Fiery Cross*, Colescott calls upon Klansmen to make certain that their message of disunity reaches the soldiers and sailors:

"It is time for the Ku Klux Klan to distribute real American literature into every army and navy camp in the land. Place the Fiery Cross and other Klan literature in public recreational halls in camps and cities near camps."

As we have noted previously, the Klan now hides behind a smoke screen of chatter about unity and support of the war effort. It is interesting therefore to read the comment of Colescott in the *Fiery Cross*, December 1941 issue, published just after Pearl Harbor: *"When the war is over there will be time . . . for action in opposition to those who put us in the war. Have no fear . . . there will be a reckoning."*

That sentence has a familiar ring. It is the cry of all who hold, not Hitler and the Japanese, but President Roosevelt and the American people responsible for the war. It sounds like Hitler himself in his violent speech the day Nazi Germany declared war on this nation. It sounds like the accusations of "war guilt" made by Petain and Laval at the Riom trials to conceal their betrayal of their country!

Forward-looking citizens have been demanding for years that the government investigate and take action against the Invisible Empire. There was good enough reason then, when the Klan was organizing lynch terrorism against the Negro people, distributing reprints of anti-Semitic literature like Ford's *The International Jew*, whipping up hysteria against the foreign-born, endangering the liberties of all minority groups.

In 1942, toleration of this sort of service to Hitlerism invites military disaster.

VI The Fifth Column Strikes: The Battle For Sojourner Truth

IF WE HAVE referred many times in the preceding pages to the Battle of Sojourner Truth, it is because that clash taught the people of Detroit lessons they cannot afford to forget. It was unquestionably the most important blow the Fifth Column has yet struck at Detroit.

It is almost inconceivable that in a great industrial city in wartime, a small band of a few hundred men could defy the forces of law and order, flout the decisions of a war government about a war project, precipitate a bloody battle, and deliberately foment race hatred when a whole nation recognizes the imperative need for unity. Yet it happened, and it is no mere accident that it happened in Detroit.

In the preceding chapter we have seen a multitude of Fifth Columnist leaders and organizations for the most part pursuing their separate ways, but maintaining points of contact and consultation with one another. In the Sojourner Truth situation we shall see all of the forces of Fascism in Detroit uniting to strike a powerful blow at our nation's war effort.

Negro and white workers labor side by side in the factories, producing for victory, and greater numbers of Negro workers will help man the assembly lines as our need for manpower steadily increases. All must have housing, and the other necessities that make for high morale and efficient work. In a cosmopolitan city like Detroit it is essential that the spirit of unity for victory among all races and creeds be increasingly strengthened.

How better to throw a huge monkey wrench into the machinery of production for victory than to create in Detroit a city-wide spirit of racial hatred and animosity, precipitate a race riot of great proportions, and set Americans fighting one another instead of Hitler? In the Sojourner Truth situation Detroit's Fifth Column set out to create disunity, chaos and race war.

Background For Conspiracy

The United States Government built for the families of Negro war workers in the City of Detroit a housing project of two hundred homes, as part of the same project that included five hundred homes for white workers, long since completed and occupied just outside of Detroit in Centerline, Michigan. The project was named for an outstanding Negro heroine of American history. Sojourner Truth was an Abolitionist, and helped mo-

bilize the people of Michigan, Negro and white alike, in support of President Lincoln during the Civil War.

Before the project was completed a group of real estate operators, who had marked out the largely-undeveloped area around Nevada and Fenelon Avenues as "their" territory, began a campaign to have it switched from Negro to white occupancy. With the help of Congressman Rudolph G. Tenerowicz of Detroit, they enlisted the aid of the business-as-usual National Real Estate Board, which maintains a powerful lobby in Washington, and a group of Southern Congressmen from the Poll Tax states, who oppose government housing for Negroes on general principles. By threatening to block passage of a vitally needed new war housing appropriation bill by bottling it up in a Committee which they controlled, the Poll Taxers persuaded Federal housing officials to change the project to white occupancy.

Negro organizations in Detroit and throughout the nation, supported by virtually every important civic and religious body in the city, protested against this clear act of discrimination against Negro workers, who were in desperate need of decent housing. Daily newspapers in New York, Washington, Philadelphia and other cities, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and other important national voices also spoke out in condemnation of the change. On the recommendation of Mayor Jeffries, the Detroit Common Council, the Detroit Housing Commission and these civic groups, the Federal Government again ordered that the project be occupied by the Negro workers for whom it was originally intended.

The Axis Reaps A Harvest

The project was completed on February 1. The date for the families to move in was set for February 28. What happened on the morning of February 25 is now known throughout the world, thanks to the Axis radio. A mob of rioters, calling themselves a "picket line," violently blocked occupancy of the project. Hundreds were arrested, scores were injured, more than 15 requiring hospitalization.

It was not until the end of April—three months after the project was completed—that the Government was able to enforce its decision and allow the families to make use of the homes the Government had leased to them.

If many Detroiters failed to recognize the significance of this "race riot," it cannot be said that the Axis enemy overlooked it. On the morning of February 29, the propaganda radio of Berlin and Tokio blared out the story to the entire world. They used it to "prove" to the peoples of Latin America, India, China, and

Africa that Americans are liars when they talk about democracy and liberation. Sojourner Truth must have been bad news to the white and Filipino soldiers then fighting side by side so heroically at Bataan!

Race prejudices die quickly when men of all races fight shoulder to shoulder for the victory of common ideals in a desperate crisis, unless there are elements at work consciously sowing the seeds of falsehood and mistrust that prevents unity. Without a Fifth Column, Sojourner Truth would have been quickly and easily settled. But Fifth Columnists flocked to the scene of Sojourner Truth like bees to a honey pot.

The Sojourner Truth violence followed weeks of well-organized incitement. The falsehood that property values would decline if Negro families were to occupy the project, was widely propagated to frighten honest but worried home owners into the ranks of the "Seven Mile-Fenelon Improvement Association." Anonymous leaflets were distributed by the thousands, slanderously declaring: "We want our girls to walk the streets not raped." Sympathy throughout the city was solicited upon the basis of "keeping a 100% white neighborhood white"—a lie which concealed the fact that a well-developed, long-established Negro community exists in the same neighborhood. Petitions were distributed by Klansmen in the auto plants, charging that "Communists are trying to provoke race riots." In many places the petitions were used as excuses to provoke fights. Mass meetings were held, and in general a lynch atmosphere was built up.

Tenerowicz Helps Hitler

No little contribution to the development of this conspiracy was made by Congressman Rudolph Tenerowicz, representative of the district in which the project is located. In the months preceding the final outbreak of violence, he worked closely with the leaders of the Improvement Association. He lobbied in Washington for them. He made a long speech on the floor of Congress against Negro occupancy of Sojourner Truth, and supplied the Improvement Association with thousands of reprints to be distributed by them.

In his speech Tenerowicz dealt with the question of "subversive influences" at work in the Sojourner Truth situation. By that he didn't mean the National Workers League or the Ku Klux Klan—he meant the broad array of community agencies working for Negro occupancy of the project, whom he labelled "Reds."

It was characteristic that the Congressman who has consistently voted against measures for war against Fascism said at the very beginning of the speech: "I am becoming more convinced daily that the *deadliest force threatening America is not the fact*

that some mad dictators are directing the world conflict that rages across the seas, but rather it is the disintegrating force of 'false and assumed leadership' that is deliberately seeking to bore from within the heart of America." (emphasis ours.) He continued his speech by condemning the "false conception of racial equality." For his blast, he borrowed worn-out material from the Dies Committee—which had never investigated the Ku Klux Klan, and had so curiously dropped investigation and exposure of the National Workers League.

Even after the indictment for seditious conspiracy of the leaders of the forces with whom Tenerowicz was working, the Congressman continued to fight the Government's decision, and demanded a Congressional "investigation" of the "subversive activities" of those who fought for democracy and law and order.

Although the Federal Grand Jury in Detroit implicated the National Workers League in the Sojourner Truth conspiracy, it failed to uncover the Ku Klux Klan's role in the situation. The Grand Jury might call in Mr. Charles Spare, Grand Dragon of the Klan in the State of Michigan, and question him about the three special meetings of the Klan held on Friday night, Febru-



Police pursue rioters near the Sojourner Truth Housing project Feb. 28. Attack on Negro families made good propaganda copy for Germany, Japan.

ary 27—the night before the Sojourner Truth riot. One of these meetings took place at 1515 East Eight-Mile Road. The second was held at a hall at Nine-Mile Road and Van Dyke. The third was at 12840 East Jefferson Avenue. And, while the Grand Jury is questioning Mr. Spare, it might ask him about the fiery cross that was burned in a field near the project the same night; and it might ask him for the names of the Klansmen at Dodge, Chrysler, Ford, Packard and other plants who were responsible for circulating the anti-Negro petitions which Congressman Tenerowicz now keeps under lock and key at his office in Washington.

The people of Detroit have given a ringing, united answer to Tenerowicz, the Klan and the National Workers League. High-ranking leaders of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths, Social Agency leaders, nationality, civic, fraternal, youth and Negro organizations have all stood firmly behind the decision of our Government. The Mayor and the Governor have made it possible to enforce this decision despite the continuing threat of Fifth Column violence.

The sentiment of Detroit's auto workers was put to a dramatic test by R. J. Thomas at the recent Emergency War Conference held recently by the UAW-CIO in Detroit. Here is the account from the *United Auto Worker* for April 15:

"During the discussion of the (Sojourner Truth) issue at the conference, Thomas recalled that Rep. Rudolph Tenerowicz, Michigan, has stated in the House that the majority of the UAW-CIO members are opposed to Negro occupancy.

"Thomas took the occasion to test out the sentiment of the UAW, as represented by the 1,400 delegates to the War Emergency Conference. He called on all who favored Tenerowicz's position to rise. There was not one standee. He then called on those who favored the position he had taken. The delegation rose to a man."

It Must Not Happen Again!

Virgil Chandler, Garland Alderman, and Parker Sage, under indictment and awaiting trial, will undoubtedly get the punishment they deserve. Yet as it now stands, the Ku Klux Klan, the National Workers League, and the rest of the Fifth Column leaders and organizations that plague Detroit are free to continue their work of disruption and sabotage.

The people of Detroit owe it to themselves and to their nation to demand a thorough house-cleaning.

The Time For Action Is NOW!

We have seen the Fifth Column in action. We know it is dangerous. We know that some who now read these words may die because traitors continue to hinder the mobilization of our full strength at a critical hour.

Because our liberties and our lives are at stake, we must act decisively. As a military necessity, our Government must move sternly and swiftly to put Fifth Columnists in prison where they can do no harm.

In Washington a Federal Grand Jury has done important work in exposing those who co-operate with the enemy in the shadow of our nation's Capitol. Attorney-General Biddle has already ordered similar investigations in six major cities throughout the nation. It is time that a grand jury in Detroit be ordered to begin a full-dress probe of Father Coughlin, Gerald L. K. Smith, the National Workers League, the Ku Klux Klan and all their kind. Let the light of day be thrown upon their sinister activities; let their secret financial backers be revealed; let all who share the guilt for their treason be punished!

At this moment of history, when world freedom or world slavery is in the balance, it is a solemn duty of every citizen and every organization to speak out and to assure their Government of the full backing of public opinion in all steps toward the suppression of these internal enemies. Let us not hesitate until it is too late.

Let us notify President Roosevelt and Attorney-General Biddle by letters, by wires, and by resolutions by the thousands, that the people of Detroit are united in the demand that the time for an offensive against the Fifth Column is *now!*

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