

Other Fascists Than
Bundists Challenge
American Democracy

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THREE THOUSAND pickets and at least as many more spectators demonstrated Sunday night that San Francisco is no place for the goose-stepping, "heil-ing" Hitlerites of the so-called German-American Bund. This solid, militant anti-fascist gathering—which included many of German descent and German birth—was a sharp declaration that labor and other progressives will not tolerate the activities of these Nazi spies and provocateurs on American soil.

Let it be remembered that this Nazi organization is closely allied with the Silver Shirts, a leader of which recently declared in Chicago that he was willing and ready to assassinate President Roosevelt.

However, there are other fascists in California and the United States who are less easy for the people to recognize than these would-be storm-troopers of the German-American Bund.

Fascism in power means the armed dictatorship of a handful of economic royalists over the mass of the people. These economic royalists are even now striving to create the pre-conditions for fascism in the United States in the manifold ways that are open to them, and in the cleverest, most demagogic methods they can find.

As witness:

The "Paul Revere" ride idea promoted by William Randolph Hearst and Paul Rumley, who was caught during the World War trying to put over pro-German propaganda in this country with the German government's financial backing, was directed against President Roosevelt and particularly his government reorganization bill.

The activities of the Republicans and the "Repubocrats" who are trying to block the President's job-recovery program.

The "patriotic" utterances of certain "brass-hat" officials of the American Legion.

The "Women of the Pacific," an organization financed by open-shop interests on the Pacific Coast, to incorporate and ham-string labor unions.

The red-baiting, anti-union organizational and propaganda activities of the Bank of America-dominated "farmers" organization, the Associated Farmers.

And every attack anywhere in the United States against the democratic, constitutional rights of the people.

Because these pro-fascist movements cloak themselves in demagogy, it is not always apparent to all democratic people that their aim and direction is toward fascism, toward the subversion of American democracy. They wear no swastikas, they do not "heil Hitler," but their objectives are the same as Hitler's and, behind the scenes, they are financed and directed by the big financiers and industrialists—just as were Hitler and Mussolini.

The only effective weapon for the democratic people against not only the Nazi agents in this country but also the fascist elements who claim to be for "Americanism," is a well unified People's Front. Unity of all labor, combining with the farmers, the small business people, the professionals and intellectuals, can defeat all kinds of reaction. Fortunately, in the democratic front in process of development throughout the states for the election campaign, we can see that the people are moving toward such a People's Front.

Let the vigilance of those militant pickets at the Bund meeting in California Hall last Sunday, be now directed in the most effective channel for strengthening democracy, through building the democratic front for the California elections in August and November.