

New York WPA Starts Purge of Fifth Column

T-H 6/23/40
Director Orders

Ouster of Reds and Nazis by July 1

NEW YORK, June 22.—The Works Projects Administration in New York city acted today to cut loose the tentacles of Fifth Columnists among its 101,000 workers.

Lieut. Col. Brehon Somerville, local WPA administrator, speaking with firm conviction at WPA headquarters, declared that beginning Monday his organization would be completely purged of those who advocate the overthrow of the United States Government, whether of Communist, Nazi or other sympathies. The purge must be complete by July 1.

Ouster Under Congress Order

One thousand Communist and Nazi bund members and sympathizers already have been found in the WPA since Congress passed the 1941 WPA appropriations bill ordering their ouster.

All WPA employes will be forced

to sign affidavits as to allegiance to the American Government, that they are not aliens, Communists or bund members.

Helped by G-Men

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Immigration Bureau, the police department's alien squad all will co-operate in ferreting out the Reds and the Nazis here.

The Dies committee in Washington has found evidence of Communist and Nazi propaganda among WPA workers and the Workers Alliance, so-called labor group in the WPA, had been frequently charged with Communist sympathies.