

1820 Progressives
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Not Vigilante, ^{W.S. Propper} Claims Patriot ^{9/11/37} Guard Outfit

Fascist Like Plan Includes Guns, Uniforms

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A national campaign "against law-defying labor unions" is the announced objective of the Patriot Guard, recently organized at Washington "by a group of ex-service officers and others."

The group is now engaged in "a special drive to rally the 100,000 military reserve officers of the country, and the millions of loyal American Legionnaires," according to the pamphlet sent out by Capt. Edward Page Gaston, national commander. He adds:

"Multitudes of naval ex-service officers are also incensed over the way in which many of our political leaders are today cringing under the lash of arrogant labor demagogues and other professional agitators."

The Patriot Guard is "a staunch friend of legitimate labor unions," according to the pamphlet, which bears no union label.

Capt. Gaston sent out the pamphlet in an attempt to refute the charge recently made in an interview by Susan Sterling, secretary of the Association of Leagues, that Capt. Gaston's group was a vigilante organization and that she had refused to have anything to do with it.

At the time, however, Robert Burri, assistant city welfare director, said Miss Sterling had sent Capt. Gaston to see him.

Although asserting the Patriot Guard is not vigilante, Capt. Gaston says, "Many of our Guard already carry arms and others will do so. If police services break down anywhere large numbers of our special foot and mounted constabulary and other armed patrols will be required to guard life and property."

Believing "our country is headed straight for a dictatorship—if the present syndicalist spirit continues to develop," Capt. Gaston writes the Patriot Guard "will be smartly uniformed (in time) with the customary insignia of differing ranks."

Capt. Gaston is listed in the 1932-33 Who's Who as living in England.