

Post 3/4/39

RALLY IGNORES RACE AND CREED TO REBUKE BUND

"MADAME X" OF THE BUND INQUIRY

State and City Officials, Clergy Join in Reply to Nazis

By STANLEY G. THOMPSON

New York gave its answer to the Washington's Birthday rally of the German-American Bund last night at a mass meeting at Carnegie Hall, which drew a capacity crowd of more than 3,500.

Men and women of varied faiths, races and political beliefs—leaders who often find themselves in sharp disagreement on public issues—united in denouncing the principles of Nazism and assuring the audience that America has little to fear from such organizations as the Bund so long as the historic spirit of tolerance exists.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the Council Against Intolerance in America, with George Gordon Battle as chairman. Speakers included Mayor LaGuardia, Representative Bruce Barton, Lieutenant Governor Charles Poletti and Judge Jeremiah T. Mahoney. Messages were received from Governor Lehman, District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey and other prominent persons who were unable to attend.

Retain Spirit of Freedom

The theme of the meeting was broad tolerance, and most speakers emphasized that the United States has retained its spirit of freedom through other attacks, such as that of the Ku Klux Klan.

Mayor LaGuardia emphasized the American outlook by contrasting the freedom in New York with conditions in some foreign countries—particularly the Germany admired by Bund members.

If Germany could read between the lines of their censored press, he remarked, they must have been surprised that New York allowed the Bund meeting.

As a matter of fact, he said, the city in permitting the Bund to hold its rally put on an "exhibition of international cooties," in accordance with the democratic principle of exposing cooties to the light instead of keeping them bottled up.

He is not concerned about the safety of New York from Nazism, "not as long as I am Mayor," La Guardia declared. He is concerned, however, about the safety of the world, he continued, and especially of the Western Hemisphere.

Wants Dictators Warned

"The language of diplomacy," he added, "can be used only when you are treating with gentlemen. We must necessarily depart from the language of diplomacy and speak in plain understandable language.

"We must say to the dictators, your ideas and your system are not wanted in this country, and your entry into any part of the Western Hemisphere is verboten."

At the conclusion of his speech, the Mayor called attention to the presence of Judge Mahoney, his opponent in the last election.

"There," he said, "you have a living example of democracy. I didn't shoot him."

Expressions by other speakers and in messages included:

GOV. LEHMAN (in message).

"No form of dictatorship—Communist, Fascist or Nazi—can make headway in this country providing we, as a nation, militantly safeguard those civil, religious and personal liberties guaranteed to us by our form of government and practiced by us throughout our history. We must uncompromisingly oppose any principle which would in the slight-



JOSEPHINE HILL

Post Photo by Mellor

The attractive brunette, who was subpoenaed in the German-American Bund hearing, insists that it's all a mistake, that she doesn't know anything about the Bund's workings and that she is merely the Bund's "best friend" and, what's more, she's single. The subpoena, she says, was a mistake. The "mistake," however, will be repeated Monday when she will return with Fritz Kuhn and other bundeers for further interrogation by Commissioner Herlands.

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Denounces Nazi Doctrine

JUDGE MAHONEY: "There is hardly any ill wind from which some good does not result, and although I am one of those who feel that the (Bund) gathering was an illegal mass meeting of enemies of God and our country, the meeting has served some good, because it has helped to focus attention of the people on the dangerous fact that here, in America, there are trained representatives of the Nazi who dare oppose, imperil and destroy our American institutions for some materialistic advantage for Nazi Germany."

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR FOLETTI: "This is not the first time that some have adorned themselves with uniforms of prejudice. The uniforms of prejudice may vary in color but they all exude intolerance and bigotry. It happened before in attacks directed against the Catholic, the Negro, the new immigrant groups and others. But in every instance American common sense has won out. America's belief in the moral worth of man, no matter what his race or religion, has successfully prevailed."

Dewey Assails Bigotry

DISTRICT ATTORNEY DEWEY (in message): "At a time when the forces of bigotry are leaving no stone unturned to spread their doctrines among the unsuspecting, we can ill afford to be content with lip service. We must expose quickly and firmly the lies that are the basis of false propaganda. That is one of the most important functions of the Council Against Intolerance. But the council and similar organizations cannot do the job unless they have the active support of all lovers of freedom."

JOHN HAYNES HOLMES: "Our task is simple—to trust in American ways of life and to keep free and open the channels of American thought. Let America remain true to her own best self and, like a flowing stream, she need fear nothing of the occasional bits of squalid scum that scar the clean surface of her life."

WALTER WHITE, secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People: "I raise my voice against all that Nazism represents. I do so on behalf of one-tenth of America's population which, also, has known what it means to be banished on the flimsiest excuse and often without evi-

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dence of guilt taken to concentration camps which we here call chain gangs. We denounce the brazen attempt of Fritz Kuhn and his cohorts because we do not want to see other minorities suffer as we have suffered."

DR. WALTER DAMROSCH (in message): "I cannot believe that the noble spirit of 'Alt Deutschland' has completely disappeared from the German race. Let us hope that the day will come when they will throw off such intellectual and spiritual slavery."

CHAIRMAN BATTLE: "The program of the Bund is a betrayal of the principles of Washington, of Jefferson, of Jackson, of Lincoln and of every American statesman and patriot who joined with his fellow Americans of all faiths and origins to rid this country of intolerance, of presecution and of tyranny."

REPRESENTATIVE BARTON: "This country saw the Know Nothing hysteria flare up and die out. It saw the Ku Klux Klan become noisy and in some States powerful, only to become later a laughing stock. Let us take very seriously every blustering, obnoxious expression of un-Americanism. But let us not commit the error of making martyrs out of those who, by their own devices, will presently make themselves ridiculous."