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# MAYOR TO PERMIT BIG BUND MEETING

## Says Free Speech in This City Is Not the Kind Prevailing in Reich Under Hitler

### MANY PROTESTS SENT HIM

### But He Declares There Will Be No Interference so Long as the Rally Is Orderly

Declaring that free speech in this city was not the kind that Adolf Hitler followed in his "abhorrent" form of government, Mayor La Guardia said yesterday that the mass meeting of the German-American Bund scheduled for Monday evening in Madison Square Garden would be permitted if it were orderly and no violence advocated.

The Mayor made his declaration in answer to questions from City Hall reporters on the numerous protests sent to him against the holding of the meeting. When he was asked what action he would take, he said:

"As long as this meeting is conducted in an orderly and lawful manner, with no violence advocated, and no preaching the overthrow of this government by violence, it will be permitted to continue. Our government provides for free speech, and in this city that right will be respected. It would be a strange kind of free

speech which permits free speech for those we agree with. That's the kind of free speech they have in Fascist countries—but it isn't free speech.

"It would be a strange thing, if because I do not agree with the sponsors of this meeting and because they abuse me, that I should move to prevent this meeting. I would then be doing exactly as Hitler is doing, in carrying on his abhorrent form of government."

The Mayor was asked whether the bund's statement that 3,000 of its own guards would maintain order was correct.

"The police will attend to their duties, and no one will supplant them," he said.

Among the organizations filing protests were the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League to Champion Human Rights, which objected to the proposed presence of 3,000 uniformed Storm Troopers, the Friends of German Democracy and the German-American League for Culture.

Police officials working out detailed plans for handling the 30,000 to 40,000 expected in and about the Garden indicated that 750 men would be stationed there.

The German American Bund calls its meeting "George Washington birthday exercises" and further describes it as a "mass demonstration for true Americanism." The printed notice of the meeting says:

"The bund is an organization of American citizens unequivocally committed to the defense of the flag, Constitution and sovereignty of these United States, and therefore to the defense of the right and duty to proportionate representation on the conduct of the nation of the more than 100,000,000 Aryan (white Gentile) Americans, as being the only means of preserving the independence and the Christian culture and civilization of this our country."