

Mayor Refuses To Stop Bund Rally at Garden

Says Move Against Meeting Monday Would Compare With Practice of Hitler

Mayor F. H. LaGuardia, just before leaving City Hall last night to start a trip to Little Rock, Ark., announced that he would not interfere with the scheduled mass meeting of the German-American Bund at Madison Square Garden on Monday night, despite numerous protests from religious and patriotic organizations.

"It would be a strange thing indeed," the Mayor said, "just because I don't agree with the sponsors of this meeting and just because they abused the Mayor of New York, that I should make any attempt to prevent their meeting. I would then be doing exactly as Hitler is doing in carrying on his abhorrent form of government."

Mayor LaGuardia said that the right of free speech would be respected "as long as the meeting is conducted in an orderly and peaceful fashion, with no violence advocated, and no preaching of the overthrow by force and violence of our government." He declared that this had "consistently" been his policy, in spite of criticism and abuse, "particularly from those who hold meeting themselves."

3,000 "Storm Troop" Ushers

The Mayor said that he had received a large number of protests against the pro-Nazi rally. Most of them, he added, came in telegrams that reflected sincerity, and were based on a disagreement with the point of view of the Bund. Others came from people who themselves had held similar meetings, and against whom he had received similar protests, he said.

At Bund headquarters, 178 East Eighty-fifth Street, there was no official willing to comment on Mayor LaGuardia's announcement. However, Frank C. Wilson, one spokesman for the organization, confirmed reports that 3,000 uniformed Bund

"Storm Troopers" would be on duty as ushers.

In referring to these reports in his announcement, the Mayor said: "Law and order will be maintained both inside and outside Madison Square Garden. The police will attend to their duties and no one will substitute for them."

It was indicated that the Bund would be deprived of two of its principal speakers. Despite the assertions at Bund headquarters that Senator Robert E. Reynolds, Democrat, of North Carolina, and Representative Fred C. Gartner, of Philadelphia, would speak at the meeting, both legislators denied having received invitations.

Reynolds Fights All Isms

Senator Reynolds, in an interview at Washington, said: "I am always happy to have the opportunity of talking American patriotism anywhere, any time. In my national program, which I am sponsoring under the name of the Vindicators, I am out to banish all foreign isms—Nazism, Communism and Fascism—in the United States."

Representative Gartner's secretary said that the Representative was ill of gripe at his Washington home and that no invitation had arrived there from the bund.

Other speakers listed by the bund to appear at the meeting were Fritz Kuhn, national head of the organization; G. William Kunze, its director of public relations; Russel J. Dunn, of Brooklyn, who frequently speaks against Communism at bund assemblies; the Rev. Sigismund von Bosse, Lutheran pastor, of Philadelphia, and a man who was described merely as "a prominent Catholic."

The secrecy of the Bund regarding the identity of the Catholic speaker caused protesting groups to speculate on the possibility that it was the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, Detroit radio priest. But in Detroit, Father Coughlin said that he would not be a speaker in New York on Monday night.

Mr. Wilson said that 50,000 copies of the red, white and blue leaflet advertising the meeting had been distributed. Printed on white paper with red and blue ink, the circular is headed: "George Washington Birthday Exercises; Mass Demonstration of True Americanism." It is addressed to "all American patriots," and charges that "violent, malicious and poisonous" attempts have been made to silence the bund.

71, 8/39