

W-J
11/8/34

Thousands Called To Picket Bund

WT 2/18/34
Socialist Workers
To Ring Garden

A call for a demonstration against the meeting of the German-American Bund at Madison Square Garden Monday night was issued today by the Socialist Workers party (Trotskyists). Party leaders said thousands of radicals would be on hand to picket the Garden.

Mayor La Guardia had announced shortly before his departure for Little Rock, Ark., last night that he would not permit interference with the Bund meeting despite objections made by religious and patriotic organizations.

The Trotskyists distributed thousands of handbills rallying their forces and inviting all Jewish residents of the city to picket as "the

(Continued on Page Three.)

pogrom gangs assemble and prepare for Fascist brutality."

"Hitler's German-American Bund gangsters, Pelley's Silver Shirt scum and Coughlin's mob of labor-haters have hurled a brazen challenge to the workers of New York," said the handbills. "Don't wait for the concentration camps—act now."

Mayor La Guardia's decision not to stop the meeting was based on his determination to protect free speech.

"As long as this meeting is conducted in an orderly and lawful manner," said the Mayor, "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."

Won't Ape Hitler.

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

It was indicated that 10 policemen would be on duty.

Despite the Mayor's explanation of his feelings about the right of assembly and free speech, the Jewish Peoples Committee today urged him to cancel the meeting lest it afford a satisfaction to Fascism by permitting the use "of the largest hall in the largest city in the country."

Mayor LaGuardia will speak on tolerance at noon tomorrow before a State gathering of the American Legion at Little Rock. He will fly from Little Rock to Memphis and thence to Washington, where he will speak before the National Aviation Forum Tuesday.