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MAYOR DECLINES TO HALT MEETING OF BUND MONDAY

Ours a Land of Free
Speech, He Says, Not a
Hitler Country

Despite a number of protests, Mayor LaGuardia will take no steps to prevent the meeting of the German-American Bund at Madison Square Garden Monday night.

"It would be a strange thing indeed," the Mayor told reporters last night, "if because I don't agree with the sponsors of this meeting and because they abused the Mayor of New York, 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."

Heavy Police Detail

The meeting will be heavily policed, Mayor LaGuardia said, but there will be no interference "as long as it is conducted in an orderly and peaceful fashion with no violence advocated and no preaching of the overthrow of our government."

The Mayor said most of the protests which he has received "are absolutely sincere and are based upon disagreement with the views of the Bund," but he added:

"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."

"Washington Birthday" Fete

Regarding a Bund statement that 3,000 of its own members would police the meeting, he said:

"The police will attend to their duties, and no one will supplant them." Commissioner Valentine, in a separate interview, echoed this statement, saying 1,000 cops would be on hand.

The Bund calls the meeting "George Washington birthday exercises . . . a mass demonstration for true Americanism." Between 30,000 and 40,000 pro-Nazis are expected to attend.

A call for anti-Nazis to mobilize outside Madison Square Garden Monday night was sent out by the Socialist Workers' Party, a Trotskyite group.

"Let the Fascists feel the anger and might of the working class" is the rallying call of a circular issued today by the party announcing the demonstration.