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# 1,745 COPS GUARD BUND SESSION AT GARDEN TONIGHT

## Valentine Personally to Direct Massed Police at Pro-Hitler Rally

Under a guard of 1,745 policemen, the pro-Nazi German-American Bund will hold a rally in Madison Square Garden tonight, its first major mass meeting in New York since the events of the last year quickened sentiment against Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime.

Acting Mayor Newbold Morris, while denouncing the Bund for its views and curtailing the use of uniforms, said he would follow the Mayor's insistence "that the right of free speech be respected as long as the meeting is conducted with propriety."

### Asks Public Stay Away

Morris took cognizance of a rising tide of feeling against the meeting, however, by issuing an appeal late this afternoon which he asked all radio stations in the city to broadcast.

The appeal read:

"Information has come to me that citizens, indignant at tonight's Bund meeting, are planning to be present at or about the Garden entrance to express their displeasure.

"In the interests of public order, I want to urge all citizens having no business at the meeting to remain away from the Garden and its immediate vicinity.

"Public order can best be protected by the police force of our city under the capable direction of Commissioner Valentine. The best way to show your support of our democratic institutions is to shun this assemblage as one would a pestilence."

### Picketing Threatened

Tonight's meeting is designated by the Bund as a "Pro-American Rally and George Washington Birthday Celebration."

The American Civil Liberties Union also upheld the Bund's right to hold the meeting, for which permission was granted by Mayor LaGuardia before he left for the West Friday.

Protests were numerous from other quarters and there was a threat by the Socialist Workers Party, a Trotskyite group, to throw a picket line around the Garden tonight.

Acting Captain Charles Beech of the West Forty-seventh Street station said this afternoon that his orders were to forbid picketing in the vicinity of the Garden.

Lewis Landes, commander of the S. Rankin Drew Post, American Legion, telegraphed a demand that the meeting be stopped on the grounds that Bund members were interfering with the civil rights of citizens.

### Valentine in Charge

Commissioner Valentine will take command personally tonight of the force of 1,745 police, who have been ordered to report without nightsticks.

Chief Inspector Louis F. Costuma will be in charge of the uniformed forces. A detail of 662 will be placed inside the Garden where some 3,000 Bund members in Storm Troopers uniforms are to act as ushers.

The police battalion tonight will include five captains, 120 sergeants, 1,200 uniformed patrolmen, fifty mounted men, five mounted sergeants, two motorcycles with side cars, three patrol wagons, a sound truck, a two-way radio car and several hundred detectives from the alien and bomb and forgery squads.

With the situation growing more acute hourly, the police detail was progressively increased over the week-end from 1,000 to 1,300, this morning to 1,480 and finally to 1,745.

A twenty-four-hour police guard was placed on duty at the Garden Saturday after receipt of a letter at City Hall in which the writer threatened to plant three time bombs in the Garden unless the Mayor called off the meeting.

It was signed in the name of the "Alparolists League." Police, while taking precautions, said they regarded the letter as coming from a crank.

Acting Mayor Morris in a radio broadcast last night declared that bund members would have to keep their meeting entirely inside the Garden and that they would not be permitted to carry the proceedings to the sidewalk.

### Morris Scores Uniforms

Police, he said, would take action if uniformed storm troopers tried to parade to or from the meeting. Pointing out that Federal law forbids the wearing of an official foreign uniform in the United States without authorization, Morris asked:

"Why is it necessary for them to disport the storm trooper uniform, the symbol of a doctrine which stirs bitter resentment in the hearts of free people throughout the world? We do not want a hostile Sudeten garrison within our gates."

The bund, the acting Mayor wound up, would have to do all its "bund-ing" inside the Garden walls.

At the Garden today workmen set up a huge portrait of Washington. On the left they arranged two flags

representing the original thirteen States and on the right two flags of the present Republic.

In the middle of each set of flags was hung the emblem of the Bund. Max Schachtman, an executive committeeman of the Socialist Workers Party, a Trotskyist group, estimated there would be 50,000 pickets at the Garden tonight on the basis of reports from labor unions and workers' clubs.

### Mayor Promises Action

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Feb. 20 (AP).—New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, commenting on reports that time bombs had been planted for a German-American Bund meeting in New York tonight, said today "if they bomb it we'll catch the bombers."

LaGuardia said he had received protests against the meeting, "but I held that if we're for free speech we have to be for free speech for everybody, and that includes the Nazis."