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Bund Meeting Sets Off Bitter House Debate

Rally Denounced and All There Called 'Traitors to American Democracy'

From the Herald Tribune Bureau
WASHINGTON, Feb. 23—Repercussions of the Madison Square Garden meeting of the German-American Bund on Monday night took place in the House today, in which "un-American" activities received a thorough going over in a manner reminiscent of the recriminations resulting from the investigation of the Dies committee.

First, Representative John Martin, Democrat, of Colorado, and a 100 per cent New Dealer, got permission to speak out of order during the naval bill debate to denounce the New York mass meeting and every one there "in sympathy with it" as "a traitor to American democracy and government."

Later Representative Charles Hawks Jr., World War veteran and Republican, from Wisconsin, disavowing any sympathy with organizations favoring the destruction of American democracy, demanded to know why the member from Colorado had failed to refer to "slimy, dirty" Communist meetings and activities constantly going on in New York and Chicago.

Martin Gets Ovation

Representative Martin received an ovation when he finished and the advantage of a full House because he spoke just after the reading of Washington's farewell address, but Representative Hawks had to find time in the Navy bill debate to ask why the House "radicals" now were big Navy men and why Mr. Martin forgot the Communists.

"The birthday of George Washington is a proper time to observe that only two nights ago in the city of New York, where George Washington took the oath of office as the first President of the United States, there occurred a mass demonstration of aliens, many of them wearing the military uniform of a foreign dictator, the greatest enemy in the world of everything that George Washington stood for and of everything that America stands for. Men of the blood and fealty of the Hessians of the Revolution, men of the blood and fealty of the German Embassy at Washington prior to the World War, plotting to incite the sister republic of Mexico to make war on this country and American industry until they were officially driven from our shores.

"When I saw the pictures of these uniformed and swaggering minions of an alien dictator on the pages of the morning papers and read what they said, I felt that if I had the power, not one of them would be breathing the free air of America in twenty-four hours. A man would have to pinch himself to see if he was awake and in the United States. They cheered the names of misguided Americans who are lending aid and comfort to Nazism and they jeered and booed the President of the United States and every spokesman of democracy who has incurred the wrath of Berlin. If these misguided men pursued the same attitude toward Nazism that they do toward their own government they would be in concentration camps or decorating stone walls."

Hawks Answers Martin
In reply Representative Hawks said:

"This morning you heard an address by my colleague from Colorado Mr. Martin, in which he attempted to take the German people, both in this country and outside of this country, over the coals. I think most of you are acquainted with the fact that in the state of Wisconsin we have some of the finest American citizens there are in this country. By far, a majority of them are of German extraction.

"The gentleman from Colorado referred to a meeting in New York, but I did not hear the gentleman refer to Communist meetings that were being held all over the United States at the same time that a few German people were meeting in New York.

"Why, under the sun, what reason is there that during the last few weeks in the House there has been no mention of the Communists?"

"We have been attempting to malign the German people; we have been attempting to malign the Italian people. We have had to listen to statements such as the gentleman from Colorado made this morning, with very little said about the slimy, dirty operations of the Communists in this country."

Instead of authorizing \$5,000,000 for Guam, "a hunk of sand in the Pacific," Representative Hawks said Congress might better give the money to J. Edgar Hoover, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to look into all un-American activities.