

ac 272
7/25/39

RIGHT OF NAZI BUND TO HOLD MEETING IN NEW YORK SUPPORTED

In the face of numerous efforts to prevent the meeting, the German American Bund carried off its scheduled mass rally in Madison Square Garden in New York this week without violence, except for minor scuffles in the streets. In line with a request by the New York Civil Liberties Committee for adequate police protection both to the Nazis and those picketing in protest, 1,700 members of the police force were assigned to the meeting. AEL

Vigorously defending the right of the Bund to hold its meeting, the Civil Liberties Committee announced it would combat any attempt to restrain the Bund from "the free exercise of its constitutional rights." In a letter to Police Commissioner Valentine, the Committee declared: 2/25

"In conformity with our firm belief that the only way to preserve Americanism is to protest the rights of assembly and free speech of all groups, no matter how unpopular or undesirable their doctrines may be, we wish to request you to give full police protection to both those holding and attending the meeting, and to all persons and groups who may wish to protest the same by picketing or other lawful means."