

MAN OF THE WEEK

Fritz Kuhn

His Nazi Bund May Not Be Political Success, but Profits Roll In

By CAL TINNEY

New York City.

Dear Papa:

New York is the place where you can sure run into enough to make you laugh. For instance, Papa, we've got the Communists here, headed by Kansan Earl Browder, whose most famous remark is "Communism is twentieth-century Americanism. If Abraham Lincoln were alive he would be a Communist."

And now come the Nazis holding "Americanism rallies" on George Washington's birthday.

I guess, Papa, the Communists will take over Abraham Lincoln's birthday and the Nazis will appropriate George Washington's birthday. Then the two factions can meet on Valentine's Day and fight it out.

"Americanism" an Abused Word

Meanwhile we owe both sides thanks, Papa. For they have brought home to us the fact that "Americanism" is the most unpinned-down word in the English language. If you are a member of the Liberty League, what you believe is "Americanism." If you're a New Dealer, though you and the Liberty League are not together on a single point, that philosophy is "Americanism," too.

Now the "Americanism" of Fritz Kuhn, No. 1 American Nazi, is wonderful to behold. Here are some of his beliefs:

(1) Fiorello LaGuardia, energetic Mayor of New York City, should get out of the country. "We want America for Americans," says Fritz.

(2) President Roosevelt, says Fritz, is "a puppet of the Jews."

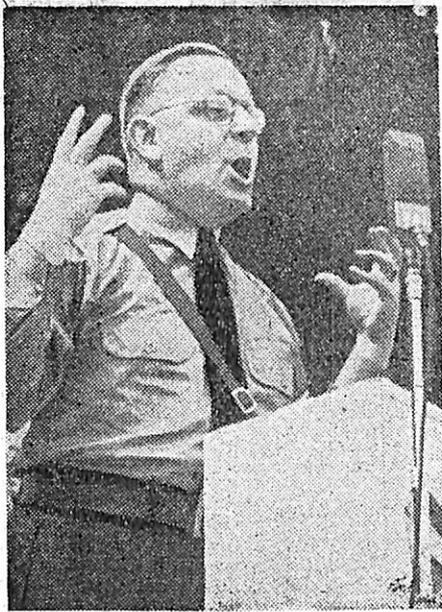
(3) But, says the American Nazi in another place, "We Nazis do not persecute the Jews. On the contrary, we are being persecuted. We are forced to act in self-defense. We cannot have freedom here.

"We do not dislike the Jew; we have nothing against him as a Jew. Let the Jew live. We only desire to put the Jew down where he belongs."

The Income Rolls Along

Maybe, Papa, you would like to know what kind of a chap Fritz is. Well, Fritz is red-faced, powerfully built, and has a waist-line on him that not even a lot of marching has cut down in size.

He is on the go so much that it is very hard to see him. There are the Bund centers in



FRITZ KUHN

Milwaukee, Los Angeles, and other places, which he must visit.

The German-American Bund is a very thriving thing, Papa. It collects \$135,000 a month in dues. The Bund may not yet be a political success, but it sure is a financial one.

Bund members wear uniforms. They cost twenty-eight dollars apiece, and "are worth the money to us," Fritz says. "When our members are in uniforms it makes it easier for us to spot Communists at our meetings."

I guess the theory is that a Communist wouldn't have twenty-eight dollars.

All Bund members were ordered in 1936 to vote for Landon "and fight Communism," and they have permanent instructions to buy only from "Aryan stores."

The Bund members give the Nazi salute. "It's the open hand to show friendship, and was always used by the American Indians," Fritz says.

The Swastika was also used by the American Indians, and Fritz only needs the opportunity to insist it, too, is a symbol of friendship. (Dr. Benes laughs here.)

He Speaks German-American

Being head of the German-American Bund permits Fritz the privilege of having audiences with Adolf Hitler, but nothing much is said about this—by Fritz. In fact, the Bund leader always said he had never seen Hitler or Goering till a photograph of him in their company was once produced in a U. S. court.

To date, the Communists have done a better job of picking a U. S. leader than the Nazis have, for Earl Browder, a sandy-haired,

Brand of "Americanism" That Gets Applause From Mayor Hague

Wichita, Kansas, boy, heads the Communists, and the only accent in Earl's speech is a Western one.

But Fritz, born in Germany forty-three years ago, and a citizen of this country for only sixteen years, has an accent so thick you couldn't cut it with a butcher-knife.

A Gunner for the Kaiser

His full name is Fritz Julius Kuhn, and he was a machine-gunner in the Kaiser's army during the World War.

At the war's end he left Germany for Mexico, where he worked in a distillery for a while. It seems he was pretty good as a chemist, and helped the distillery owners to solve some of their problems of fermentation.

I would say Fritz still doesn't have to take a back-seat when it comes to causing ferment, but I don't have to—Dorothy Thompson will say it for me.

Then Fritz entered the United States. His first job here was in the Henry Ford hospital in Detroit. Later he was transferred to the River Rouge plant of the Ford Motor Company.

When Fritz took over the leadership of the "Friends of the New Germany," as the German-American Bund was then known, his office sported photographs of Hitler, Baron Richtofen and—who do you think? George Washington—showing that his adoration for the "Father of Our Country" goes 'way back.

History Weak—Voice Loud

It doesn't faze Fritz in the least that German Hessians made up a part of the armed forces George Washington had to lick. As a matter of fact, Fritz seems to have forgotten about the Hessians, or at least to have decided they fought with George Washington, not against him.

How else can you explain statements of Fritz's like, "We Bund-members will fight like our forefathers to defend this country"?

That's the high plane on which our No. 1 Nazi tries to keep his public addresses. It is only after he is aggravated that he will descend to calling some one like Congressman Dickstein "that little shrimp from Russia."

Papa, if you still have any doubts about Fritz's Americanism, this will remove them: He and his Bund-members received invitations from Jersey City's Frank Hague to take part in the Mayor's "Americanism rally" last fall.

Your son, CAL.