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S. F. Nazis Beat Public Retreat 'Cancel' Meeting

*But Suspicious Anti-Fascists Keep Hall
Under Surveillance, Ready to Picket if
Hitler Followers Attempt Last-Minute Ruse*

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—Faced by the threat of a mass picket line, San Francisco Nazis today made a public retreat and seemingly abandoned their intention of holding a meeting under the guise of a George Washington celebration.

Cancellation of the German-American Bund meeting was confirmed by two sources: the California Hall Association, owner of the hall where the gathering was scheduled, and the San Francisco police department in the person of Captain Arthur Christiansen.

Reinhold Frommer, president of the California Hall Association, said the association had decided not to allow the meeting "because we don't want our building to be made a battle ground."

POLICE VERSION

Captain Christiansen, on the other hand, claimed the abandonment of the meeting resulted from a telephone conference he had with "G. K. Hein", believed to be Gottfried Hein, newly-appointed fuhrer of the German-American Bund in San Francisco.

The hall had been rented in the name of "G. K. Hein" who allegedly agreed to call it off.

"I gave him hell," said the police captain, "telling him there might be a riot. I warned him that if he wanted to hold any meetings here in the future to go about it quietly."

LIE CHARGE MADE

The captain also charged that the Nazi fuhrer lied to him. He said: "He (Hein) told me Chief Quinn had promised him protection but that wasn't true."

California Hall President Frommer was much perturbed at the turn of events which forced announcement of the cancellation.

"We have always been in favor of free speech and free assembly," he explained. "We have always stood for these constitutional guarantees, believing that they are safeguards of democracy. But when free speech and free assembly arouse the populace to a violent reaction, we draw the line."

ANTI-FASCISTS SUSPICIOUS

Despite these assurances, suspicions of anti-fascists who had announced their intention to picket at the rally were not allayed.

Dave Thompson, representative of the Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and himself a veteran of the Spanish Loyalist armies, said California Hall would be under surveillance tonight and should the Nazis attempt any ruse to hold their meeting, it will be picketed.

At the same time Thompson distinctly disassociated his group and the Maritime Federation, which supported the protest, from the so-called Socialist Workers Party with which they had been linked in the metropolitan press.

"We have nothing at all to do with that group," said Thompson. "That's a Trotskyite sect whose only purpose is use the anti-Nazi sentiments of the American people to provoke violence and disorder as was exemplified in the New York and Los Angeles incidents."

Thompson's fears of a last-minute Nazi ruse were based on the suspicious circumstances which surrounded the calling of the Nazi rally.

"WORLD" EXPOSES

Private invitations sent out did not reveal the German-American Bund sponsorship. Press publicity named the sponsor as "the German societies of the Bay Area."

However, the United German Societies, coalition of German groups, repudiated the meeting and denied any connection with it.

It was not until The People's World exposed the Nazi origin of the meeting and the duplicity of the Nazis in concealing their hand, that mass indignation was expressed, ranging from the waterfront labor groups to the American Legion.