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BUND INQUIRY PLEA GAINS FORCE HERE

200 Petitions in Circulation
for State Study of Nazi
Group's Activities

PART OF NATIONAL DRIVE

Society for Democracy Seeks
Legislative Move Against
'Subversive' Aims

With several hundred signatures already attached to the more than 200 petitions in circulation in New York City and up-State, the New York Chapter of the Society for American Democracy was hopeful yesterday of presenting to the Legislature within the next few days a well-backed request for an investigation of the German-American Bund.

The petition addressed to the Legislature and calling for the investigation charges that the bund and its affiliated organizations are seeking "to destroy the principles and institutions of American democracy, to foster religious hatred, promote racial discriminations, to induce dissension and civil war and to establish a quasi-military organization subversive to our system of government."

The legislative committee sought would be empowered to inquire into the "extent, character, program, activities, finances and sources of

finance" of the bund, the diffusion within the State of Nazi propaganda "and especially the extent to which this is instigated, financed or controlled by any foreign government." The petition asks that adequate funds be granted so the committee could conduct "an exhaustive and expeditious investigation."

The Society for American Democracy is a national, non-partisan organization organized in January to carry on a militant nation-wide attack against all un-American isms, but particularly nazism, which it considered the most widespread and dangerous.

Chapters of the society have been or are being established in Chicago, Kansas City, Baltimore, Atlanta, Madison, Wis.; Athens, Ga.; Cambridge, Mass., and Norman, Okla.

On its national board of sponsors are Attorney General Frank Murphy, Dr. Frank P. Graham, president of the University of North Carolina; Dr. Stringfellow Barr, president St. John's College, Maryland; the Rev. Henry Smith Leiper, executive of the Universal Christian Council; Professor Robert Morss Lovett, University of Chicago; Professor Kirtly F. Mather, Harvard University; Oswald Garrison Villard, author and editor, and Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Dr. Johan J. Smertenko is executive director. National headquarters are at 512 Fifth Avenue.

Norman Dodd heads the Greater New York Chapter, which has branches in all five boroughs. Other members of the New York chapter include George H. Combs Jr., radio news commentator; Professor Daniel R. Hodgdon, New York University; Ernest L. Meyer, newspaper columnist; Mrs. Claire M. Senie, vice president, New York Federation of Women's Clubs; C. Roy Wilkins, editor of The Crisis, and Eugene Lyons, editor of The American Mercury.