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Grand Thefts Investigated In New York

Books of Five Hitler Groups Taken By District Attorney As Substantial Funds Vanish

NEW YORK, May 10.—A large scale scandal involving "alleged grand larcenies in substantial amounts" threatened to break today as it was disclosed that the district attorney's office had seized records of the Nazi German-American Bund.

The announcement was made by Paul E. Lockwood, executive assistant to New York's District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey. It followed a complaint by Bund Fuehrer Fritz Kuhn that upon his return from Los Angeles on Tuesday he found that "about a dozen men, describing themselves as representatives of the district attorney's office" had raided his office without search warrants and confiscated "important papers and files and \$1380 in currency."

In reply, Lockwood revealed that district attorney's representatives had seized certain records on May 2 "in the course of an investigation of certain alleged grand larcenies." He added that Kuhn's belated complaint "would appear to be a sudden afterthought to explain the loss of part of the funds, the absence of which is under investigation."

BOOKS SEIZED

Lockwood further said: "On May 2, certain books were subpoenaed by this office from the A. V. Publishing Corporation, German-American Settlement League, Inc., German-American Business League, Inc., German-American Bund, and the German-American Front, Inc."

Lockwood denied that the offices had been broken into and said that James Wheeler-Hill, secretary of the Bund, had accepted a receipt for the books taken.

The present investigation is the outcome of a previous inquiry conducted by Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands. Herlands had acted under orders of Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia following complaints that Nazis had failed to pay the sales tax on brown shirts, banners and other paraphernalia sold their members.

ILLEGAL ENTRY CHARGED

Kuhn faces investigation from another source, also. Following charges that he had entered the country illegally, United States Attorney John T. Cahill promised to investigate. A congressional investigation is also in prospect on similar charges made by Rep. Samuel Dickstein (D., N. Y.)

Despite the mass of accusations, the Dies Committee which is empowered under a congressional resolution to investigate subversive groups, has taken no decisive action on the Bund.

Bund Fuehrer Kuhn is a former employe of Henry Ford in Detroit and began his Nazi activities while still in the employ of the automobile magnate.