

5/19/37

Pressure Gets Dewey Pledge To Act on Bund

DW

Tells LaGuardia Data on Tax Evasions Will Be Sent to Grand Jury

5/19/37

In answer to a request from Mayor LaGuardia that he take immediate steps to prosecute Nazi Bund leader Fritz Kuhn, and investigate the activities of the Bund, District Attorney Dewey in a letter to the Mayor yesterday, said his office was acting on the matter.

Mayor LaGuardia Wednesday urged the District Attorney to "take prosecutor's action" against the Nazi leader and seven of his associates in the Bund and organizations related to the Nazi outfit.

The Mayor ordered Commissioner of Investigation William Herlands to turn over to Dewey all evidence gathered against the Bund officials on evasions of sales and business taxes.

In his letter of reply to the Mayor's urgent demand for prosecution of the Nazis, Dewey wrote that he intended to present to the Grand Jury evidence relating to the alleged sales and business tax evasions, as well as more serious charges, which he referred to as "certain alleged substantial felonies."

The felonies mentioned were believed to deal with the theft of funds from Bund finances.

Mr. Dewey yesterday, in answer to queries, did not set a date for the presentation of evidence against Kuhn and his cohorts to the Grand Jury.

The eight Bund officials under investigation and possible prosecution are Kuhn, who is president of the Nazi German American Bund; J. Wheeler Hill, William Leudtke, Max Rapp, Karl Kienzler, Max Buchte and Rred Hackl. The eighth Nazi, Richard Mettin, aged 39, was reported dead. He was said to have died during the past week after a very short illness.