

12-Count Indictment Names Him As Forger

Charged with Stealing Gate Receipts of Garden Rally

By John Meldon

Fritz Kuhn, leader of the Nazi German American Bund was arrested in Pennsylvania late yesterday afternoon by New York detectives as a "common thief" as he was attempting to flee a criminal indictment issued by the Grand Jury.

The Nazi leader was caught in Krumsville, Pa., a small town 30 miles west of Allentown, Pa., on State Highway 22, shortly after the Grand Jury in New York handed down an indictment charging Kuhn with 12 counts of grand larceny and forgery.

The fascist leader's arrest was the outcome of a detailed probe into Kuhn's activities originally started by Commissioner of Investigations William B. Herlands on the instructions of Mayor LaGuardia. On May 17, the Mayor ordered Herlands to turn over all material he had gathered on the Nazi leader to District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey, and at the same time called on the District Attorney to take immediate action against Kuhn.

STOLE RALLY FUNDS

Kuhn was arrested by New York detectives James Cashman, James Mazan and Joseph Norbury. They trailed Kuhn and three companions traveling in Kuhn's automobile, to Krumville, where the party stopped for dinner.

Kuhn told Pennsylvania motor police at Hamburg Barracks that he would waive extradition, but attempted unsuccessfully to reach his New York attorney.

Under all 12 counts of the indictment on which Kuhn was arrested yesterday, the Nazi leader is liable to a total of 50 years imprisonment.

The indictment charges grand larceny, embezzlement and forgery of Kuhn, and accuses him, among other charges of having stolen the proceeds of the Bund rally in Madison Square Garden last Feb. 20.

Nab Kuhn as Thief; Tries To Skip State

Counts 1 and 2 of the indictment specifically accuse the Nazi leader of stealing \$8,907.35 of the receipts of the Garden meeting.

Counts 3 and 4 state that he stole \$4,424.22 from Bund finances which were raised as a defense fund for a group of Nazis convicted in the Riverhead, Long Islands Bund camp case. The fund was raised to conduct an appeal from the conviction.

On counts 5 and 6 of the indictment, Kuhn is charged with using \$565.76 of Bund funds to pay for the transportation of furniture of a woman friend, Mrs. Florence Camp, from Los Angeles to New York.

[In an exclusive story published in the Daily Worker on Wednesday, May 24, the arrest of Kuhn, on charges of embezzlement involving a "mysterious blond" was predicted within a few days.]

In counts 6 and 7 of the indictment, the Nazi Fuehrer is accused of stealing \$500 from the Bund, and the German-American Settlement League, Inc., declaring that he drew a check to his own order, cashed it and then charged it to the Bund books. Kuhn's entry on the Bund books stated that the \$500 had been paid to James D. C. Murray, an attorney, for "legal fees."

At a press conference shortly after Kuhn's arrest, Mr. Dewey said that Mr. Murray had not received the money allegedly paid to him by the Nazi leader.

Counts 9 and 10 in the indictment declare that Kuhn took another \$151.26 of the Bund monies for the subsequent transportation of his blond lady friend's furniture from New York to Cleveland.

FORGED ENTRY

Forgery in the third degree is charged in the 11th count of the indictment, regarding the "legal fees" entry.

False entry is charged in the final count.

Mr. Dewey said that Kuhn is liable to 10 years imprisonment on the first six counts, and five years each on the remaining six, a total of 50 years in prison in the event of a conviction on all counts.

The actual investigation of the District Attorney's office which led to the arrest of the Nazi kingpin was conducted by two assistant district attorneys, Frank Severance and Sewell Tyng.

That Fritz Kuhn had decided to attempt to escape was learned by newspaper men shortly after noon-time yesterday when a telephone to the Bund office here brought a reply from Wilhelm Kunze, a Kuhn aide, that the latter had "gone on a vacation."

Meanwhile, it was learned, Kuhn was being "tailed" throughout the day, prior to and during the time he left the city, by three detectives who were instructed to keep on his trail until the Grand Jury acted on the indictment.

The three plainclothes men, Cashman, Canavan and Norbury, kept reporting Kuhn's movements by telephone to the District Attorney's office. The detective doing the "tailing" observed Kuhn pack three different valises at three separate parts of the city, and then followed him out of town.

AIDES ESCAPE ARREST

Kuhn was accompanied by three men, thought to be his lieutenants,

The trio followed the Nazis along State Highway 22 as far as Krumsville, and while Kuhn's car had stopped at a gasoline station for refueling, at 5:45 P.M., they contacted the District Attorney's office and were told that an indictment had been handed down at 3 P.M., that a warrant was issued fifteen minutes later, and to arrest the Nazi leader.

Enroute to Krumsville, the trailing detectives reported by telephone, Kuhn and his party had picked up "several trunks" which indicated that the Nazi bigshot intended to make his flight a long one.

"A COMMON THIEF"

The arresting officers at once escorted the Kuhn automobile to Hamburg, Pa., where Kuhn was placed in Pennsylvania State Police barracks, pending extradition.

Following the apprehension of the fleeing Nazi yesterday, Mr. Dewey declared:

"The indictment shows that Kuhn is just a common thief."

Meanwhile it was learned that the Grand Jury had heard 20 witnesses in the Bund probe before issuing the indictment.

The charges which Kuhn must face from the District Attorney's staff when he comes to trial are only part of the serious accusations he must face from law enforcement agencies here.

Long before Dewey's forces delved into the machinations of Kuhn, the activities of the Bund came under the scrutiny of Commissioner of Investigation Herlands at the orders of the Mayor.

The Herlands probe charged that the officialdom of the Bund had been guilty of sales and business tax evasions over a long period. Herlands also revealed that two Nazi officials, Karl Nickolay, Brooklyn Bundster, and Fritz Schweiring, business manager of the A. V. Publishing Co., had secretly fled the country.

On Tuesday of last week Bund Treasurer Richard J. Mettin died under mysterious circumstances in Staten Island and was cremated the next day.

In a 42-page report Mr. Herlands presented evidence of a maze of financial skulduggery on the part of the Bund leaders.

Mayor LaGuardia subsequently blocked the flight of Kuhn to Germany when he learned that the Nazi leader had asked for a passport application from the State Department. The Mayor telegraphed Secretary of State Hull and asked that the application be withheld, which was done.

The Herlands probe, the findings of which were turned over to District Attorney Dewey, characterized the money manipulations of Kuhn as a "financial dictatorship."

ALLEN
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