

New York's Nazis Led By Criminals

By B. O. P. I.

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SIX MONTHS ago a representative of the League's Bureau of Propaganda Investigation first heard Joe E. McWilliams mouthing pro-Nazi sentiments from the platform of the Crusaders for Americanism at Tri-Boro Palace, Bronx. The Crusaders were a violent outfit led by Bund-member George A. Van Nosedall, who openly fostered the shedding of blood in America, and aspired to be a Fuehrer in his own right.

McWilliams was clever enough to see that under the leadership of Van Nosedall, the Crusaders were destined to disintegrate in short order and started plans for the formation of his own Nazi-inspired group to be called the Christian Mobilizers.

Many of the former Crusader members were drawn away from Van Nosedall's group by a clever bit of internal sabotage. Three meetings in a row, speakers expected to address the Crusaders failed to appear. McWilliams and Westphal, a former leader of the Crusaders, engineered this stunt. Rumors were started insinuating that George Van N. was dishonest and had pocketed a goodly portion of the Crusaders' funds. Van Nosedall made fervent pleas to his followers not to desert him but in vain. The early part of July revealed a deflated Van Nosedall hanging his flabby frame over the speakers' rostrum with only a handful of people as an audience.

Mobilizers Organized

July 6, the Christian Mobilizers, a boycott organization, held its first meeting at Tri-Boro Palace under the leadership of Fuehrer McWilliams, who has stated from the platform, "America will never be without a leader as long as we have a copy of Mein Kampf."

Membership in the Mobilizers was limited to Christian men, eighteen years of age or over, who were in good physical condition. Since its first months, however, handsome McWilliams has gathered a large following of hysterical females into his entourage who shout oaths of condemnation directed at the President, the Mayor of New York City, the Governor of New York State, and in general all believers in true democracy.

Father Coughlin disavowed any tie-up with the Mobilizers, realizing that their strong-arm methods would give him poor press notices. However, many members of the Social Justice Distributors' Club,

Coughlin's own little hate outfit, are ardent Mobilizers.

McWilliams was accused of being a pawn in the hands of the German-American Bund, but he denied any affiliation with the Bund. Today he has become bolder. At a meeting of the Mobilizers several weeks ago, he openly announced that the Mobilizers and the Bund had pledged mutual support. "This union was an act of God," said McWilliams, to the tune of thunderous applause. So was the Johnstown flood, we hasten to add, and probably no more welcome to the citizenry in the immediate vicinity.

Much has been written about McWilliams' Hate Front, and we see no reason to repeat it here. Suffice it to say that the Mobilizers promote civil strife, racial hatred and make no pretenses about their admiration for Hitlerian ideologies. Their methods of fostering pro-Nazi sentiment in New York City and its environs are identical to that used by Hitler's cohorts. Their audience has been regimented in the approved Nazi fashion. Frequently even to the use of the Nazi salute and the Heil Hitlers that as yet have not changed to Heil McWilliams.

Strong-Arm Guards

Trained strong-arm guards proceed McWilliams to the speakers' dias as the crowd cheers their hero who will lead them from their bog of depression to the heights of economic independence through a sea of Jewish and non-conformist Gentile blood. The riches of Canada and Mexico will be theirs. They will walk in step, think as directed, and possibly be persecuted in their turn by their leader Joe McWilliams.

Important to us is the fact that many well-intentioned citizens have joined the Mobilizers with the understanding that they have become members of a patriotic organization. Many of the followers of the Mobilizers are of Catholic religious faith. It is to these people that we direct our expose of the type of leaders McWilliams has gathered as his lieutenants.

Do these Catholic followers know that in September at a conference of the Ku Klux Klan in Atlanta, Georgia, a new member was elected to the National Supreme Council? This member was none other than Joe McWilliams. These members must know that the Klan was established on an anti-Negro, anti-Jewish and anti-Catholic basis. Are they going to con-

tinue applauding one whom they know to be a member of an anti-Catholic organization?

Certainly but few of the Mobilizers' supporters would think of going to the State Penitentiary to be told by one of the inmates how to understand the true principles of Democracy. Surely they would not go to a Public High School and be greatly impressed by the rantings of some immature student on a subject he was in no way mentally equipped to discuss. Nor would they be impressed by a discourse on moral integrity by Lucky Luciano, the noted overlord of New York's Houses of Assignment.

Criminal Records

Few would say they would be led by any of the above-mentioned persons, yet they sit spellbound by the raving of a group of men whose criminal record is just as unsavory. It is not our desire to drag forth the criminal records of men who made a mistake, paid their debt to society and have indicated that they are again worthy of the respect of their fellow citizens.

We do feel, however, that when a group of men show time after time that they have no desire to follow the legal dictates of the majority of our citizenry but prefer to follow the course of crime and do their utmost to inspire racial hatred and civil strife, it is time to expose them to the public—particularly if this group of men is actively working to undermine the democratic principles of our government.

Such men are Edwin Westphal, Joseph Hartery, John Zitter, John J. Olivo and Edmund Burke, whom McWilliams has the audacity to present to his followers as representative leaders. These men are representative of the ideas they exploit, for their ideas are synonymous with those of Hitler. Ideas and methods that have created untold suffering and bloodshed.

Edmund Vincent Burke, recently appointed Chief of the Christian Mobilizers' Bureau of Speakers, has long been a platform and street speaker for various Hate Front groups. His qualifications for this position are very interesting and will bear close scrutiny. Burke, 37 years of age, stopped school at the age of 15 after a poor record for scholarship. August 31, 1926, Burke was arrested for breaking and entering a jewelry store and stealing a tray containing a number of white gold diamond rings, several platinum mounted diamond rings, six wedding rings and eighteen bracelets. Physically Burke on



JOHN J. OLIVO

examination proved to be mentally retarded and was suffering from intermittent attacks of St. Vitus dance. A record that scarcely would recommend him as the head of a speakers' bureau for any reliable organization.

John J. Olivo, also known as Oliva, is Captain of McWilliams' strong arm unit. Olivo's job is that of training these youths in jui jitsu, boxing, wrestling, street-fighting tactics, drilling and rifle practice. Olivo too has served as a speaker.

His record is a trifle more unsavory than Burke's. Olivo was first arrested January 14, 1931, for stealing an automobile. October 11, 1934, he was arrested for attacking and raping a woman in Central Park. He then fled with the contents of her purse. December 10, 1934, he was sentenced to prison. Although he is mar-



JOHN ZITTER

are scarcely those of a leader for young Americans.

A former Captain of the Guard Unit of the Mobilizers and presently one of their speakers is John Zitter, who also boasts of a criminal record. He with two accomplices committed four burglaries prior to November 3, 1934. He was placed on probation for a period of two years as a result of his thefts. Zitter too had a very limited formal education although he is perfectly sound mentally.

One of the most vicious of the Mobilizers' speakers is a former leader of the Crusaders for Americanism and a Bund member, Edwin Westphal, twice arrested on burglary charges, once sentenced for third degree burglary, convicted as a wayward minor, twice convicted of copyright

charge. It was Westphal who made the statement, "What we need here is another Hitler or Franco."

Fifth member of McWilliams' brain trust is Joseph Hartery, who also feels qualified to address the public on true Americanism. Hartery was arrested under the name of Joseph Herman, January 7, 1932, on a charge of offering or agreeing to receive two persons on his premises for the purpose of prostitution, lewdness, and assignation. Hartery pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 30 days.

Two years later he was discharged from his employ because of an attempted attack on a fellow worker with an ax. Four years later, December 14, 1938, he was arrested for threatening a man with



EDMUND VINCENT BURKE



JOE E. McWILLIAMS

FRITZ KUHN

ried, Olivo has made no noticeable effort to support his wife.

Mentally Olivo is reported to be an emotionally immature type of personality deviate and has neurotic tendencies of a moderately complicated nature. Physically, Olivo has been treated for a venereal disease contracted as a result of sexual promiscuity. Summed up, his qualifications

law infringements, and last convicted August 13, 1939, on a disorderly conduct

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a knife and received a sentence of three days in the workhouse. In 1939 he has been twice arrested, February 14, for defacing seats in a courtroom, and August 31, fined \$10 for statements made at a street meeting.

This is a brief picture of the Christian Mobilizers. Do you think it is representative of American Ideals?