

G-Men; Ending Bund Inquiry; Reveal "Pledge" to "German Way"

They Put Strength At 6,600 to 8,300

No Firearms Uncovered---
One Camp Held "a Piece
Of German Soil" in U.S. 4/3/39
NYWT

By the United Press.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—The German-American Volksbund, the American Nazi organization, comprises between 6,600 and 8,300 individuals who seek to instill and perpetuate in German-Americans "a pride of German background and love for Germany," the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice announced today. It found that Bund Leader Fritz Kuhn participated with Adolf Hitler in the abortive beer cellar putsch in Munich on November 9, 1923.

That German is mandatory in bund schools.

That the Stars and Stripes and the swastika are raised and lowered together at bund camps.

That one camp was dedicated as "a little piece of German soil in America."

The report of the bureau's investigation of the bund reached no conclusions as to whether the bund violates any federal law and offered no definite evidence that the organization was dominated or controlled by Germany.

Found No Firearms.

The bureau reported that Kuhn contended that the bund was "not a part" of the German Nazi party. Its agents found no evidence that firearms were used in bund drills or by the uniformed bund Storm Troopers.

The fourteen volumes of the report of a year's investigation were being studied by the Department of Justice and have been submitted to the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

The bund controls several other organizations, each devoted to a particular phase of pro-German activity, the report said.

Its constitution pledges it to work for the "mutual benefit of the United States of America and Germany." Its stated aims are to "uphold and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States, to promote goodwill and friendship between the United States and Germany, to defend with all lawful means the honor of the mother country (Germany), and to advocate the right of every civilized nation to attend to its own business without any interference from outsiders."

Anti-Semitism Definite.

The bureau found definite anti-Semitism and anti-Communism. The bund fosters the Deutscher Konsum Verband, Inc. (D. K. V.). This German-American business league ostensibly "fights the anti-Nazi boycott," but "it appears, in fact, that the D. K. V.'s purpose is to promote an anti-Jewish boycott," the report said.

Anti-Semitic literature is distributed in camps established by the bund youth organization, and "on numerous occasions inflammatory speeches are made against the Jews, blaming them for Communism."

The camps are at Grafton, Wis.; St. Louis; Yaphank, L. I.; Southbury, Conn.; Andover, N. J.; Croydon, Pa., and Tanglewood Park, Buffalo, N. Y. Others are planned at Bridgman, Mich.; Cleveland, and South Bend, Ind.

Camp routine prohibits any language but German. Strict discipline is taught.

"Pledges" Used.

Leaders of the bund insist, the report said, that no oath is required for membership. Several statements and "pledges" were found to have been used, however. In one, used in the youth movement, the member promises to be "faithful to the German way" and "to follow the instructions of the leader with absolute obedience."

Another, required by the Buffalo unit, is a pledge to "follow the orders of your leaders, always to fulfill your obligations as a citizen of this country, and never to bring shame and dishonor upon your German race."

Bund leaders claimed that American citizenship was a prerequisite to bund membership, but "it appears that there are members who are not naturalized citizens," the report said.

Kuhn, 43, was born in Germany and became a naturalized American citizen in 1934. He served Germany on four fronts in the World War and was wounded three times. He has followed Hitler since 1921.