

# Position Faced by Many

From the World-Telegram Mail Bag

By Randolph S. Freeman

On the editorial page of your paper I read a letter by "A Daughter of America," in which a woman of German descent throws defiance at the Nazi bunds and affirms devotion to her country.

The letter was excellent, and she is to be congratulated on her stand. However, my reason for writing is to comment on the fact that she was unable to sign her name.

As I see it, there are only two possible reasons for this requested omission. They are:—

1. Dread of possible social ostracism.
2. Fear of retaliation by members of the bund—or both.

And the crime for which this punishment would be meted out would be that of simply standing up for her country.

To me the very idea of such a thing is monstrous and an affront to democratic ideals. That an American should be forced to remain anonymous in her own country while standing up for the same is carrying guarantees of democracy a little too far.

I have thought many times that the lot of loyal Americans of German extraction might not be altogether a happy one. Since the advent of Hitler numbers of them must have been caught in the unfortunate position of being between two fires—i. e., pressure on one side by German-Americans and Americans of German descent (note the distinction), and a slight hostility by some Americans of other antecedents on the other. At the same time they must have been subject to considerable mixed feelings themselves.

It is easy to understand a sentimental regard, on their part, for Germany. I do not doubt that every one of them, down deep inside, would prefer Germany to stand supreme in the respect and admiration of other nations of the world, instead of the opposite, as is the case at present. I know how many must feel from personal experience.

My own people, on both sides, came to this country from various parts of the British Isles some 300 years ago, and frankly I will admit to some slight sentimental regard in this direction. However, if England or Ireland ever went Fascist or Communist I would detest them above all other peoples.

And so, once more, I should like to congratulate "A Daughter of America," for she certainly is one in every sense of the word. It is to be pitied that all German-Americans are not like her.

Mt. Kisco, N. Y.

## Sees Promulgation of Anti-German Propaganda.

By Eric Meese.

It seems incredible how anyone could be as complete a sucker for anti-German propaganda as your anonymous contributor who presumes to lecture those of us with German sympathies.

To vilify Germans residing here for their loyalty to the Fatherland is just plain silly, and if there are many Americans whooping it up for Mr. Hitler, which I doubt, what of it? Your contributor and a million others rightly would resent stigmatizing their own Stalin worship, Chamberlain detestations, Benes gush, or what have you.

Let your correspondent, who claims to be of German extraction, beware of acquiring a permanent racial inferiority complex. Germany has been and is resisting economic warfare forced upon her since 1918. Combined with her recent racial controversy the fatherland is sorely beset by a horde of German baiters and defamers. Exaggerations, claptrap, lies nine times out of ten, travel as legitimate news. Let your contributor employ a salt-shaker

when partaking of news concerning the fatherland.

What is the matter with Mr. Fritz Kuhn? Has he violated the laws of the land? If not, who is doing the persecuting now?

This writer can reconcile perfectly his Americanism with a deep love for Germany and things German. He cherishes this sentiment without a trace of apology just as any Irishman, Swede, Englishman would toward his own respective ancestral land. If membership with the bund is considered a criterion for one's profound regard for a brave, lovable and fundamentally democratic people I want to apply for admission.

Great Neck, L. I.

## Sees Threat of Nazism Menacing America's.

By Samuel Chesnin.

This writer has been inspired by the recent eventful and heartbreaking address of Dr. Edward Benes over the radio. He described, in a choking voice, his twenty years of strenuous work to build up a republic out of the debris of the last European war, mold and consolidate all factions and nationalities into one democratic government. For twenty years they lived and worked in peace among themselves and other nations, a small nation, but rich in prosperity and independence, till the Nazi government started to pour in poison. They poisoned the Slovaks against the Czechs, and the

rest is history, a terrible nightmare. Dr. Benes has sounded a warning for us to guard our precious heritage, the only democracy of this kind left in the world.

I have been a reader of the World-Telegram as long as I can remember, and the most interesting column of your paper is "The Mail Bag," because the most vital subjects concerning our national life are being discussed by the public. I am yet to remember when there has appeared in that column a more serious and vital question than the Bund meeting at Madison Square Garden.

The Bund's existence is proof enough that the octopus is reaching out with its filthy arms across the sea, the same arms that have choked and silenced the Austrian people, and the same arms that have destroyed the Czechoslovakian republic. Let us not make any mistake. This is war. A war without bombs or machine guns or long-range artillery. Instead, the enemy is using poisonous lies, bigotry and fomenting discontent in our national life. We are overrun by spies and something must be done, the same as we would do in war-time emergency. By this time we know our friends and we also know our enemies.

Let's disband every form of ism organization, regardless of what color, revoke the citizenship papers of the organizers, and deport them to the countries they like best.

We should also direct our efforts to keep the Nazis out of the South American markets. Bronx.

## Sees too Much German in Some Practices.

By An American.

Your editorial on sandwich men was justified. Most of them look like derelicts who certainly would be unlikely to earn a dollar in any other way. However, there is one class of sandwich man advertising that should be legislated out of existence at once—foreign language advertising.

I was shocked recently to see a sandwich man bearing a sign entirely in German and there are some shops in Yorkville which have only German signs in their windows.

How long is this "German soil in America" idea to be tolerated? New York.