

Baldwin Turns Hart's Face Red

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Merwin K. Hart, New York's home-grown Fascist, was embarrassed yesterday. And because he was the host, he couldn't do much about it.

The whole thing started at a luncheon of Mr. Hart's New York State Economic Council at the Commodore, which was called to

oppose the St. Lawrence Seaway. Chief speaker was Representative Joseph Clark Baldwin, gray-haired, dapper Republican, newly elected from Manhattan's Park-Fifth Avenue District. At the outset Mr. Baldwin hauled off and said:



Merwin K. Hart

"I have been informed that certain sponsors of the New York State Economic Council hold views on our American Democracy and its defense completely at variance with mine. Had I known of these views in advance, I would not have been here today, and no doubt neither would many of you."

Not a murmur came from the well dressed crowd of about 200 who had paid \$2 each to eat the hotel's food. Mr. Baldwin went on to explain that:

"Those who attempt to divide our na-

tion; those who place race or party prejudice above patriotism; those who refuse to recognize the vital importance of national unity, are preparing the downfall of our nation."

After the speech Mr. Hart, who has a reputation for admiring Fascists and hating Democracy, replied. He told Mr. Baldwin that his information was "absolutely false."

"We have no race prejudice in this organization," Mr. Hart said. "And when we refer to this we mean feeling against the Jews—let's speak English."

"There are Jews on our board of directors, and there are Jews among our members. I cannot say that I am not aware of the whispering campaign against us—it is really more than a whispering campaign. I'm glad you brought this out into the open, and I'm also glad to set you straight—and the public too."

After this interchange the meeting went off as scheduled. Mr. Baldwin opposed the Seaway project, a favorite of President Roosevelt's because, he said, it was uneconomic and would interfere with real defense work. The other speaker, Chauncey J. Hamlin, of Buffalo, also attacked it. Then the meeting approved a resolution condemning it, which had previously been drafted and handed around to reporters by Mr. Hart's press agent.