



The Hour

NUMBER 134

MAY 16, 1942

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NOTE: *The Hour* is a confidential bulletin, published each week by The Hour Publishing Co., Inc. The price of subscription is \$5.00 per annum, \$3.00 for six months.

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THE CASE OF "COUNT" ANASTASE VONSIATSKY

Disclosures of international significance are likely to come out of the Federal Grand Jury probe into the activities of Anastase A. Vonsiatsky, which is now taking place in Hartford, Connecticut, under the guidance of Thomas J. Dodd, special assistant to the Attorney General.

For years Anastase Vonsiatsky, head of the Russian National Fascist Revolutionary Party and until recently editor of The Fascist, has been weaving a net of international intrigue from his estate near the little town of Thompson, Connecticut. Himself an agent of the German and Japanese High Commands and a ringleader of the fascist White Russian fifth column in America, Vonsiatsky has been conspiring not only to overthrow the Government of the Soviet Union but also to bring about a fascist coup in the United States. Working closely with key representatives of Germany and Japan, he has helped smuggle spies, saboteurs, and terrorists into Russia, whose duties have included assassinating Soviet leaders. During the last ten years, he has frequently visited Berlin, Rome and Tokyo. He ran arms to Franco-Spain to aid the Axis-inspired uprising in that country. He aided in the organization of a fascist White Russian Army on Japanese soil which is now awaiting orders from Tokyo to launch an attack against the Soviet Union. On his Connecticut estate, he maintained an elaborate arsenal of rifles, machine guns, tear gas equipment, etc; and he trained scores of uniformed swastika-wearing young men in preparation for the day when Fascism would come to America.

For carrying on his multifarious plottings, the former Czarist officer had at his disposal the immense fortune of his wife, nee Marion Ream, who inherited a one-seventh share of the \$40,000,000 Ream estate in Chicago. The American heiress and the penniless Russian emigré met in Paris in 1921, and were married shortly afterwards. At the time he was twenty-three and she was forty-five.

Vonsiatsky Exposed in The Hour in 1939

On July 30, 1939, The Hour carried an article, entitled "Fritz Kuhn's Week-End Host Participated in Murders," which exposed Vonsiatsky's fifth column activities in the United States. Our report also brought to light a confession he had written many years before, describing a series of torture-murders in which he had participated. We urged in this article, and in subsequent reports, that the U. S. authorities conduct a thorough investigation of Vonsiatsky.

When the Federal Grand Jury hearings started this week in Hartford, one of the first witnesses to be summoned was The Hour reporter who assisted in preparing our articles on Vonsiatsky.

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DETROIT FIFTH COLUMNIST REPRINTS ENDORSEMENT BY SENATOR REYNOLDS

Current Issue of Smith's Cross and Flag Also Announces
Smith's Candidacy for U. S. Senate

The May issue of The Cross and The Flag, the seditious magazine being published in Detroit by Gerald L. K. Smith, ex-Silver Shirter No. 3223, devotes its entire back page to a promotional article based on an endorsement received from Senator Robert R. Reynolds of North Carolina (see The Hour for April 18 and May 2). At the top of the page are several lines of bold type reading: "United States Senator Robert R. Reynolds, Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, said, when interviewed by the Associated Press concerning THE CROSS AND THE FLAG: ..." The item then proceeds to quote Senator Reynolds' statement endorsing Smith's subversive sheet which, in the Senator's words, stands "for the things I have stood for for many years." The article also quotes from a personal letter received by Smith from Reynolds, congratulating the Detroit fifth columnist on the first edition of The Cross and The Flag. Smith proudly remarks, "This is merely one of the thousands of testimonials that have come in, favorable to this crusading, patriotic journal."

Emboldened by the support he is receiving from congressmen such as Senator Reynolds, Gerald L. K. Smith strikes out with increasing venom against the Administration in his current issue. In his characteristic demagogic style, he attacks the "bureaucrats and politicians" in Washington for their supposedly incompetent prosecution of the war. The temporary setbacks suffered by the U. S. armed forces in the Pacific are pictured by Smith as "bloody circumstances" brought about by "boondoggling bureaucrats and racketeers in Washington, who not only should be fired but should be locked in jail for the duration." The Government investigation of Father Coughlin's pro-Nazi activities is represented as a "communist" plot to persecute the Royal Oak priest. Two pages are given over to reprinting an attack by Congressman Martin Dies on Vice-President Henry Wallace.

Some individuals, however, come in for hearty praise in the latest issue of Smith's seditious journal. They are Charles A. Lindbergh, the Naziphile flyer who so energetically strove to prevent this country from being prepared to face the Axis onslaught; Father Charles E. Coughlin, until recently Goebbels' foremost U. S. spokesman; Father Edward Lodge Curran, eastern Fuehrer of the Christian Front; Elizabeth Dilling, notorious anti-Semitic propagandist; Dr. Gerald B. Winrod, Kansas pro-Axis agitator; Col. Robert McCormick, publisher of the Chicago Tribune; Col. J. M. Patterson, publisher of the New York Daily News; Eleanor Patterson, publisher of the Washington Times-Herald; William Randolph Hearst; Congressman Martin Dies; and Senator Robert R. Reynolds. The traitor Smith, who once boasted to his jailbird boss Pelley of forming the first Silver Shirt stormtroop band in the United States, describes the above-mentioned individuals as "fearless Americans who have exposed the subterranean operations of the Red revolutionaries without mercy."

(More)

Smith's Political Plans

The feature article in the current issue of The Cross and The Flag is entitled "My Hat's In the Ring." In it Smith announces he will be a candidate in Michigan this fall for election to the U. S. Senate. The sort of backing he hopes to get is obvious. "I will be supported by the old-fashioned, Christian, American people," he says. He makes an open bid for the support of Christian Front, German-American Bund elements by including this plank in his program:

"I shall defend the right of free speech and free press for Father Charles E. Coughlin. The treatment that this minister of Christ is receiving at the hands of the blood-thirsty Reds is unbelievable."

With the United States engaged in a life and death struggle against the Axis powers, the seditious, disruptive propagandizing of this 20th Century Benedict Arnold constitutes an ever-increasing danger to the American people. The Hour therefore urges that the Department of Justice immediately suppress The Cross and The Flag and conduct a thorough investigation of the treasonable activities of Gerald L. K. Smith, examining with particular care his ties with certain members of the Congress of the United States.

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DETROITER CALLS FOR PRO-AXIS "PEACE"

Robert S. Aspinwall of Detroit, who describes himself as "President of The Lincoln Manufacturing Company -- Specialists in Fluorescent Lighting," is currently distributing seditious literature through the United States mails. This literature is in the form of a small, neatly printed pamphlet, entitled Our One Hope of Peace, which contains defeatist, pro-Axis propaganda.

Camouflaged as a pseudo-economic tract which presents the "solution" of the world's present problems, Aspinwall's booklet contains such spurious comments as the following:

"In the first world war we used a number of slogans to give popular expression to the object for which we were fighting. We were told this was 'The war to end wars' -- that we were fighting for 'The preservation of freedom and democracy.'

"But to those of us who carefully study and analyze the situation there are many questions, many puzzling facts that do not seem to be clearly nor adequately explained by such simple and obvious reasons.

"Certainly we are called upon to defend ourselves against attack but on further reflection the people of the attacking nations are not a particularly warlike type."

(More)

Why then, asks Aspinwall, is the United States fighting the Germans and the Japanese? Mainly, he answers, because this country's harsh economic measures against Berlin and Tokyo forced the war on these nations. The Detroit pamphleteer then reasons:

"Thus it seems that the United States through a lack of understanding and commonsense has been jockeyed into a position of fighting for a cause that is both unjust and detrimental to civilization ... Of course the nations in question [with which the U. S. is at war] have adopted a brutal and barbaric method of accomplishing their aims but there seemed to be no other way for them to achieve their desires, for the U. S. had made it definitely clear that every effort would be made to protect home industry. Further than that the United States in company with other nations made it clear that if any attempt was made by force to expand the sphere of influence of these [fascist] nations that every help short of war would be given to any nation on whom force was used. ... this war might be brought to a reasonable conclusion by acknowledging our error and by the promise of cooperation when their [the Axis] goods are offered in payment for things they need."

(Italics ours)

Times Advertises Aspinwall's Book

Interestingly enough, on April 26 and May 3 the New York Times carried advertisements for Aspinwall's pro-Axis booklet. Both advertisements, which were headed "Our One Hope of Peace," read as follows:

"This war is a struggle for the control of raw materials and the issue can never be settled by fighting. A lasting peace can be achieved by free trade -- free trade not only between nations but between ourselves as well. Send ten cents for booklet, 'Our One Hope of Peace,' Robert S. Aspinwall, 2630 Erskine St., Detroit, Michigan."

It seems that the advertising department of the New York Times should exercise greater care in checking the sort of literature it promotes. Aspinwall's above characterization of this war as a "struggle for the control of raw materials ... which can never be settled by fighting" should alone have been sufficient to arouse the suspicions of any copy reader familiar with President Roosevelt's definition of this conflict as "A War of Survival."

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