

## NEWS-KEY

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Report on Tracy Phillips ..... | page 1-2 |
| Career of David Gordon .....   | " 3      |
| End of <i>Top Kick</i> .....   | " 4      |
| Arrest of Jordan .....         | " 4      |

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181



# The Hour

100 E. 42nd St., New York  
Murray Hill 5-0688-9

Number 143

September 26, 1942

## Board

## Editor

Albert E. Kahn

## Editorial Consultants

Prof. F. L. Schuman

Johannes Steel

Leland Stowe

Hendrik van Loon

Wythe Williams

## MR. PHILLIPS GOES TO WASHINGTON

Within the past fortnight a dapper gentleman by the name of Tracy Phillips has visited Washington and made a number of calls on the State Department. Phillips, we are informed, has been "advising" State Department officials regarding the European situation and problems of the foreign born in this country. Those State Department officials are doubtless unaware of certain of this gentleman's past associations and of some of the more interesting aspects of his career.

A former member of the British Colonial Office, Tracy Phillips was known to be in close touch with "appeasement circles" in England before the war. Lady Astor and Lord Halifax, whose names were then associated with the so-called Cliveden Set, were among Phillips' intimate friends. Phillips was also said to be a very great admirer of Benito Mussolini. He was a frequent visitor to Fascist Italy. In October 1938, Phillips attended the Congress of the International Colonial Institute in Rome. With him at the time was Viscountess Dorothy Downe, well known in England for her pro-Nazi sympathies and as an intimate friend of Sir Oswald Moseley, the leader of the British Fascists who is now in jail.

The Fascist Government of Italy displayed considerable warmth towards Phillips who as late as March 1940 publicly expressed his admiration for the brutal Fascist colonial policy in Africa. He informed the English public; "the Italian technique of overseas settlement offers us much to learn."

## Interesting Connections

U. S. State Department officials might find of greatest interest the relations that have existed between Phillips and certain fascist-Ukrainians in North America who have been connected with the German War Office and the German Ministry of Propaganda.

Tracy Phillips arrived in Canada from England on June 10, 1940, and was promptly contacted by Luke Myshuha, editor of the pro-Nazi Ukrainian-American newspaper, Svoboda. This paper was banned by the Canadian Government subsequent to exposures of its pro-Nazi character appearing originally in The Hour. Myshuha hurried from his office in Jersey City, N. J., to Canada to meet Phillips. Myshuha's



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newspaper, Svoboda, published an article welcoming the "distinguished visitor," Tracy Phillips. Only a short time before this, Myshuha had returned from Nazi Germany, where he had been a guest speaker on one of Dr. Goebbels' radio programs.

Phillips' visit to Canada had been preceded by that of a fascist-Ukrainian, W. Kissilevsky, who spread the word that Phillips was coming as a "special emissary of Lord Halifax." From the day he set foot on Canadian soil, Phillips was enthusiastically hailed by fascist-Ukrainian organizations set up by representatives of the German Intelligence Service. The very friendly reception accorded to Tracy Phillips by these persons at a time when Germany and England were at war seemed rather strange, to say the least.

As a matter of fact, Phillips' association with the fascist-Ukrainians dates back some years. In the summer of 1939, Phillips visited the town of Alassio, Italy, and spent a week at the Villa Romana, home of Jacob Macohin, a meeting place for Nazi-Ukrainian agents from all parts of the world. Macohin is himself a key representative of a fascist-Ukrainian organization, which has its headquarters in Berlin. According to the London Daily Express of December 5, 1938, Macohin was then proclaiming his intention to lead a fascist-Ukrainian army of 600,000 men, trained and equipped by Nazi Germany, against Soviet Russia. Interestingly enough, W. Kissilevsky, who now serves as Tracy Phillips' private secretary, formerly worked as a propaganda agent for Macohin.

#### Aid to the War Effort?

Tracy Phillips has been in Canada for two years. His influential friends in England were doubtless useful to him in securing his present position with the Canadian Department of War Services. Phillips now works with a section of this Department called the Committee on Canadian Citizenship which has the function of organizing the foreign born behind the war effort of the United Nations.

It would appear to The Hour that, in view of his strange connections and expressed opinions, Tracy Phillips is hardly the man to organize effective support of the war effort or to give "advice" to the United States State Department.

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## MORE ON TOP KICK

On August 22 we urged that U. S. Military Intelligence conduct an immediate investigation of Top Kick, a new "comic" magazine intended for nationwide distribution among members of the armed forces. We revealed that this publication, while purporting to be of a humorous character, was in reality spreading propaganda which could have the sole effect of undermining confidence in the army leadership, stirring up misgivings about the U. S. Government and fostering doubts and suspicions against Great Britain and Russia.

In Top Kick, the editor's name appeared as "Jack Dinsmore." A Cleveland investigator for The Hour informed us that "Dinsmore"'s real name was Charles Rothman (President of Charles Publishing Company, 1102 Carnegie Hall, Cleveland, Ohio), and we included this information in our story on Top Kick. We have since learned that Rothman is the publisher, not the editor, of the fascistic pseudo-comic magazine. The editor is a man by the name of David Gordon.

### Gordon's Career

A former Cleveland newspaperman, David Gordon has had a shoddy record as an editor and publisher of obscene publications. One of his magazines, which was called Hot Dog, was suppressed because of its pornographic content. A similar Gordon publication was Secrets. The magazine Top Kick, as we previously reported, combined pornography with fascist propaganda.

Several months ago, Gordon -- who was converted to Catholicism in 1936 -- began issuing a publication called Catholic International, "a magazine of Christian decency for the Christian home." Permeated with anti-Semitic innuendo, the Catholic International campaigned vigorously against all inter-faith activities. In other of his "religious" writings in the Catholic Mirror of Springfield, Ohio, Gordon referred to Charles Chaplin as a "non-Christian," slandered Albert Einstein and offered apologies for Hitler's persecution of the Jews. The November 1940 issue of the Catholic Mirror carried an article by Gordon entitled "A Christian at the Movies," in which this publisher of pornographic literature inveighed with righteous indignation against "sex-drenched novels" and "perverted" moving pictures.

### Gordon Interviewed

A short time after The Hour's disclosures about Top Kick, a reporter from the Cleveland Press interviewed David Gordon. Mentioning the fact that Gordon claims to be a member of the Legion of Decency the reporter asked Gordon what he thought of his new magazine. The editor answered, "I am ashamed of it. We went too far with the obscenity. I will have to tone it down."

During the course of the interview, Gordon stated that he was a former member of the Christian Front, the pro-Axis organization which was headed by Nazi propagandist Father Charles E. Coughlin.

(More)

Shortly after the above interview, Gordon notified the reporter from the Cleveland Press that he had decided to discontinue the publication of Top Kick (the first issue of which, incidentally, remains on newsstands throughout the country). Gordon was not very explicit in the reasons he gave for liquidating the magazine. Whether or not David Gordon stops publishing Top Kick, we recommend that Federal authorities investigate this shady editor and his latest publishing venture. Gordon should be asked where he obtained the obviously Nazi propaganda material which fills the pages of Top Kick.

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#### FACTS ABOUT STRASSBURGER

A report reaches The Hour that the New York State Chamber of Commerce has elected Ralph Beaver Strassburger to its Board of Directors. There are certain facts about Mr. Strassburger's record as a public figure that his associates on the Chamber of Commerce should know.

Ralph Beaver Strassburger has for many years been the owner and publisher of the isolationist, anti-Administration newspaper, the Norristown, Pa., Times Herald. In addition to his activities as a publisher, Mr. Strassburger was formerly one of the chief sponsors of the so-called American Committee for the German Relief Fund, Inc., and an honorary member of the "German Society." Mr. Strassburger's wife, May Bourne Strassburger (daughter of the late Frederick G. Bourne, who amassed many millions from Singer Sewing Machine and other concerns) was a behind-the-scenes financial supporter of Women United, the subversive unofficial ladies auxiliary of the America First Committee. In March of last year Mr. Strassburger set up what was described as a one-man "relief" organization for Marshal Petain, and was reported to have donated \$500,000 to send supplies to Vichy. He was one of the very few private subscribers to Transocean News, chief official Nazi propaganda outlet in the United States.

When Government investigators raided the Transocean News offices of the Nazi agent Manfred Zapp in 1940, they found evidence that Mr. Strassburger and the Nazi agent had been in close contact. On April 25, 1940, Zapp wrote the following letter to Mr. Strassburger:

"I want to thank you especially for the interesting interview I got and I will certainly take you at your word and take the liberty of calling on you next week. I am sending you, as I promised, the full text of the third German White Book containing documents found in Warsaw regarding American foreign policy."

The German White Book was an official Nazi propaganda publication based on forged documents aimed at discrediting the foreign policy of the United States Government. As a result of Zapp's "interviews" with Mr. Strassburger, the publication of this Nazi material was made possible in this country. Mr. Strassburger personally put up the sum of \$4,250 to finance the distribution of 17,000 copies of this German White Book.

#### NOTE

With the current issue of The Hour Michael Sayers, who has been a frequent contributor to this newsletter and who wrote the book Sabotage! in collaboration with the editor of The Hour, joins our editorial staff. The current issue was prepared in collaboration with Mr. Sayers.