

PROBE OF FASCIST CONSUL SPY ASKED

Daily Worker Expose Lauded

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The immediate cause of the expressions of indignation at the fascist interference with American citizens was the expose by Art Shields, veteran labor reporter, which appeared in Saturday's Daily Worker.

In that article, the first of a series of three, Shields presents startling documentary evidence to the effect that A. P. Janelli, Italian consul in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, is carrying on espionage against Italian-born American citizens and reporting on their anti-fascist activities to his government.

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Roger N. Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union, stated yesterday that "the same kind of activities by Italian consuls were detected 10 years ago and effectively stopped. They can be stopped again."

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should take action," Vito Marcantonio, president of the International Labor Defense, told the Sunday Worker, while Girolamo Valenti, fiery editor of *Stampa Libera*, Italian progressive paper, said that "a Congressional investigation of these activities in America is more necessary than ever."

Unanimous in their approbation of Shields' brilliant exposure, others who called for immediate action included the Reverend Herman F. Reissig, executive secretary of the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, Paul Reid, executive secretary of the American League against War and Fascism, Joseph Curran, president of the National Maritime Union, Peter Cacchione, Communist candidate for the City Council in Kings County, and Osmond K. Fraenkel,

activities of Valerio Bellone, born in Italy but an American citizen since 1926.

Bellone is anti-fascist, and in a signed statement following an interview by Art Shields, stated that he is opposed to fascism and as an American citizen has a perfect right to this view. Bellone has recently been active in collecting funds for the relief of Spanish Loyalists.

Shields' story involves Hernay, Italian consular official at Philadelphia, as well as Janelli, both of whom are responsible to the Italian Ambassador Fulvio Suvich in Washington. It discloses that the Italian governmental representatives here have on numerous occasions attempted to interfere with the organizational work of the United Mine Workers of America through intimidation of the large Italian-born population of certain sections of Pennsylvania.

CACCHIONE COMMENTS

"The relation of fascist agents to anti-labor activities is made clear in this Johnstown case," stated Paul Reid of the League Against War and Fascism.

Dr. Reissig, especially interested in the case because of its possible effect on the raising of funds for the relief of the Spanish Loyalists, said that "the coercion practiced by official consular agents of the Italian Fascist government against American citizens of Italian birth engaged in raising funds for the

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More Evidence In Tomorrow's Daily Worker

A. P. Janelli, Italian consul at Johnstown, Pa., threatened Italians with deportation to fascist Italy because they were anti-Fascists and staunch union men.

In tomorrow's Daily Worker, statements of three additional Italo-Americans against him will form the basis of the next installment of Art Shield's striking exposure. He shows in greater detail how Italian gov-

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Shields' article, presenting incontestable documentary evidence, shows how Janelli, Italian consul in Johnstown where bitter steel strikes have been waged and where the Citizens Committee against steel strikers, at first local but today national in scope, was founded, nosed into the ac-

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Cacchione, promising to make the protection of Italians, whether citizens or non-citizens, a central issue of his election campaign, demanded an investigation by the State Department "and the withdrawal of their passports for un-American activities and for taking advantage of their diplomatic immunity to carry on illegal acts."

ASKS RECALL

"The State Department," said Marcantonio, "should demand the recall of these Fascist consuls and should send a sharp note to Mussolini informing him that their methods are illegal and contrary to international law."

"These activities of the Italian consuls should be protested strongly," said Osmond Fraenkel.

"Mr. Shields has rendered a great service to the cause of peace in the Italian communities of America by his exposure of the activities of Mussolini's agents who try to array Italians against Italians," said Valenti of the Stampa Libera.