

# ITALIAN FASCIST PROPAGANDA IN THE U. S.

5,000,000 Italian-Americans are its hoped-for target

by **GIROLAMO VALENTI**

Editor, *La Parola*, New York anti-Fascist Italian-language weekly

"IN THE NAME OF GOD and Italy I swear that I will follow the orders of Il Duce and will serve with all my strength, if necessary with my blood, the cause of the Fascist revolution . . ."

Thousands of American citizens have taken this oath. It is required for membership in any of the multitude of American Fascist organizations—a huge pyramid of clubs and societies, established and financed in this country by the Italian government at a cost of 50,000,000 lire (about two and a half million dollars) a year.

Most important is the National United Italian Associations, Inc., which sometimes calls itself the Italian Confederation of America. It is directed from the home of Capt. Vincenzo Rossini, Italian Army officer, at 39 Highland Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Other Fascist organizations are the Dante Aligheri Society, an allegedly cultural group; the Italian Lictor-Fed-

eration of which the dreaded Squadristi are the military wing—in the United States, as in Italy; the Mario Morgantini, the "Dux" club and neighborhood groups with names like the "Benito Mussolini Circle." Not fewer than a hundred paid agents of the Italian government direct their activities in the United States, using consular officials as their contact with Rome.

Key organizer of Italian Fascism in the United States is Consul General Commendatore Gaetano Vecchiotti, who provides quarters for militant Fascist groups in the handsome Palazzo Italia in Radio City, New York.

Working closely with Vecchiotti is Capt. Pietro Pupino Carbonelli, leader in America of O. V. R. A., the Italian Gestapo, which intimidates loyal Italian-Americans with threats of reprisals against relatives in Italy. Three O. V. R. A. agents left the country after I testified against them before the Dies committee in 1938. But others remain.



ITALIAN FASCISTS AT NAZI CAMP NORDLAND, Andover, N. J. They read Italian language newspapers of Generoso Pope, wealthy Tammany Hall politician who owns the two largest in the United States—*Il Progresso Italo-Americano* and *Il Corriere d'America*.

Each has on its editorial board an agent of Mussolini's Ministry of Popular Culture—Angelo Flavio (*Il Corriere*) and Vincent Comito (*Il Progresso*). Other sources of Fascist propaganda are the magazine *Il Grido della Stirpe* (Cry of the Race) and the radio.

Capt. Pietro Garofalo, who works for Cine Roma, Fascist movie agency, broadcasts from WHOM, New York. Agents Cesare Mattioli and Frank Trombetta use WPEN and WDES, Philadelphia. Others broadcast in Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco, Cleveland.



**BLACK SHIRTED FASCISTS** at a Nazi Bund meeting in New York are evidence—though little is needed—that Fascists and Nazis stand together here as in Europe as foes of democracy. These Italians are willing dupes of agents like Captain Garofalo (see opposite

page). More than a propagandist, Garofalo is an ingenious money raiser. During the Ethiopian war he circulated thin sheets of copper cut to postcard size, sold 1,232,000 to Italo-Americans who mailed them to Italy where they were melted down for war pur-

poses. Today he has a new scheme. He sells post cards decorated with gold-plated hearts. The actual gold value is about 15 cents, but he sells them for 50. Eventually the 15 cents worth of gold and the 35 cents in United States exchange go to aid Rome.



**THIS FASCIST CLUB** has space in a U. S. government post-office building in Brooklyn, N. Y. In American public school buildings hundreds of Fascist teachers hold classes. One of their Italian readers, "Andiamo in Italia," was written by two Arkansas University professors, A. Marinoni and L. A. Passarelli. Quote: "The new Fascist Government rules the nation and results are thoroughly impressive."



**ITALO-AMERICAN SCHOOL CHILDREN** give the Fascist salute to Italian Consul Sircana at the Penn station in Pittsburgh as they leave for a free summer vacation in pre-war Italy. There they are taught tactics of Fascist revolution and deliberately trained to destroy democracy in the United States. This overt violation of law by an Italian official points the danger of Fascism to America. **END**

In the next issue of LOOK—Nazi Propaganda in America—a roundup of the men who are doing Hitler's work here and an analysis of their methods