

PRO NAZI LITHUANIAN PAPER STILL PUBLISHED: PAGES PREACHING UNAMERICAN DOCTRINES

Jewish Review 3/19/42
Outstanding among foreign-language publications which have served as Nazi propaganda agencies in the United States, *Keleivis* ("Traveler"), a Lithuanian-language weekly still published at 253 West Broadway, South Boston, Mass.

The newspaper is edited by a Lithuanian-American fascist, Stanley Michelson. It has a circulation of approximately 40,000.

Keleivis has made little attempt to conceal its sympathy for Hitler's cause. Not only have its editors openly expressed profound admiration for the Quisling regime established in Lithuania by the Third Reich; but they have regularly featured dispatches from Nazi-endorsed correspondents in Kaunas, reprinted numerous articles from the Nazi-Lithuanian press and published lengthy extracts from speeches delivered over the Goebbels-controlled Kaunas radio station.

When Hitler attacked Lithuania in June, 1941, *Keleivis* enthusiastically welcomed the invasion of the "liberation" of the Baltic state, echoing the cynical claims of the Propaganda Ministry of the Third Reich, the fascist Boston paper described the Lithuanian people as wildly rejoicing when the Nazis marched into their homeland. Typical of this Hitlerite journalism was the following passage from an article appearing in *Keleivis* on July 9, 1941:

"When the Germans began to march upon Russia, a wave of happiness began to rise for every Lithuanian . . . In all of Lithuania it was fully believed that no one else could or would free the Baltic nations from communist slavery if Germany did not do it . . . not one of the large democratic states were hearty friends of the Lithuanians. . . Those overpraised and overhonored European democracies, that is France and England, even held up Lithuania's legalization of the Memel territory . . . Therefore, for the Lithuanians, it would be hopeless work to wait for the democracies to free the Baltic states from Bolshevik slavery."

Keleivis as Jew-Baiter

In true Nazi style, *Keleivis* is scurrilously anti-Semitic. Jews are referred to as "stinking kikes," and the Hitlerite canard of "Jewish-Bolshevism" is a favorite subject of discussion. After Soviets were established in Lithuania in July, 1940, *Keleivis* launched a campaign of vitriolic slander against the Jewish people, asserting that "Jew Communists" had seized the Lithuanian government. Some characteristic headlines were: "Jews Will Have Shirts — Lithuanians Won't" (issue of January 8, 1941); "Jews Will Control Meat" (issue of February 1, 1941). "Jews and Russians—Real Rulers of Lithuania" (issue of June 4, 1941). The political situation in Lithuania was summarized in *Keleivis* as follows:

"Perhaps it will not be clear to America's Lithuanians why the people of Lithuania are electing Jews, and Russians as their representatives instead of Lithuanians? It is so because the Lithuanian people cannot elect whom they want but have to vote for those candidates who are put up by the agents of Moscow . . . If the Lithuanian people had freedom, they would not elect Jew Communists as their representatives."

On June 25, 1941, immediately after the Nazis invaded Lithuania, *Keleivis* asked: "here is Paleckis now with all his Jewish commissars? Did they run through the mud to Stalin? Or maybe they are already sitting in jail." And the editors of the Naziphile sheet gloated:

Committee for the Promotion of Democracy

On December 15, 1941, in an article on the so-called Committee for the Promotion of Democracy, we reported that F. J. Bagocius, one of the founders of the Committee, was closely associated with the pro-Nazi paper, *Keleivis*. (Bagocius acted as spokesman for the Committee for the Promotion of Democracy when this group sent a delegation to the Department of State last fall.)

Bagocius, who is a lawyer, helped draw up the statement of ownership of *Keleivis*. His office is located at the same address as the publication, and he is a frequent contributor to this pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic sheet. The paper in turn gives enthusiastic publicity to his various activities, reprints his speeches, and regularly supports him as candidate for the presidency of the Lithuanian Alliance of America. Lithuanian-American circles refer to Bagocius as "the brains behind *Keleivis*."

While Bagocius was helping organize the Committee for the Promotion of Democracy, *Keleivis* published articles warmly praising the aims of that organization. The pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic Lithuanian press as a whole rallied to the defense of Bagocius' organization.