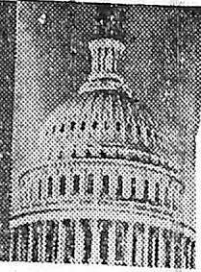


They're Saying In Washington

By Adam Lapin



Biddle's Order Speeds Up Capital Witch-Hunt (But Not Against Fascists)

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The witch-hunt against government employes with even faintly progressive views has been intensified ever since Attorney General Biddle's order in the Bridges case.

And to make matters worse all too little is being done about known fascists and Nazi sympathizers in the government service.

Here is a case in point:

There is a man called Don L. Kirkley who works for Nelson Rockefeller's Office of Inter-American Affairs. He is in the press section and he writes feature material allegedly designed to put over the anti-fascist cause of the United States and the United Nations in Latin America.



Kirkley's qualifications for this job are very peculiar indeed.

He was the publicity man for the Johnstown Citizens' Committee which tried to branch out as a nation-wide anti-labor vigilante movement during the Little Steel strike of 1937.

Then he worked for The Vindicator, Senator Robert Reynolds' paper which specialized in anti-Semitic, pro-fascist propaganda.

Only a few days ago George D. Riley, axe-man and columnist for Cissy Patterson's defeatist Washington Times-Herald, praised Kirkley lavishly as a Jim-Dandy. Riley spends most of his time smearing administration officials, so his words of praise for Kirkley were significant.

It should be added that Kirkley does on occasion have access to confidential information. For example, he accompanied President Prado of Peru on his recent tour of United States production centers as a representative of the Rockefeller Office, and together with Prado's party, Kirkley inspected important war factories including the new Ford bomber plant.

Now it would be nice to wind this item up with the pious hope that Biddle and J. Edgar Hoover will do something about men like Kirkley in the government service.

The trouble is that it is an established FBI policy not to go after men with fascist and even pro-Nazi connections—if it cannot be conclusively demonstrated that they have had direct foreign ties.

And when fascists in the government service do have links with foreign governments the FBI has not always swooped down with the same vigor it shows in going after \$1,400 a year clerks who once made a \$5 contribution to Loyalist Spain.

It will be recalled that a woman called Julia Krause continued to work for the government while she acted as a go-between for Laura Ingals, the convicted Nazi agent and the German embassy in Washington.

There sure are some queer goings on in the Department of Justice under the Biddle regime.