

Philadelphia Pastor Guilty In Spy Plot

3 Coconspirators
Sentenced; Kunze
Gets 15-Year Term

Post-Examiner
By the Associated Press

Hartford, Conn., Aug. 21.—The Rev. Kurt E. B. Molzahn, pastor of an historic German Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, was convicted today of conspiracy to betray the country in which he has lived for 18 years, by delivering United States military secrets to Axis powers.

The Federal Court jury of eight men and four women who had heard the four-week long trial deliberated for two hours.

Prosecutor Thomas J. Dodd, jr., asked that the full penalty of the peacetime espionage act—20 years in prison—be invoked immediately, but Judge J. Joseph Smith continued the case until Tuesday morning to give the defense opportunity to prepare arguments on motions.

Dr. Ebell Gets Seven Years

He then immediately sentenced three of Pastor Molzahn's coconspirators, including Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, former national leader of the German-American Bund, who had pleaded guilty to the indictment. Kunze, who now calls himself a German citizen, though he is the only native born among five conspirators, was sent to prison for 15 years as Dodd recommended.

The prosecution's recommendation also was followed in the sentence of Dr. Wolfgang Ebell, 43, El Paso (Tex.) physician, who was given a seven-year term. Dr. Otto Willumeit, 37, stocky Chicago bund leader, must serve five years. Dodd had asked that he be "leniently dealt with."

The fifth conspirator, Anatase A. Vonsiatsky, Russian Fascist leader, was sentenced before the Molzahn trial started July 28 and is serving five years.

The \$25,000 bail put up for Molzahn by his parishioners at Old Zion's Church was revoked, and the

Pastor Convicted In Spy Conspiracy



REV. KURT MOLZAHN

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47-year-old clergyman was remanded into the custody of the marshal.

Molzahn, seated at the counsel table, and his wife, sitting some 15 feet away with a group of friends, both looked tired and drawn after the ordeal of the trial, but neither displayed any emotion at the verdict. When he was led from the courtroom, Molzahn quietly kissed his wife farewell.

The aim of the conspirators was to collect information about the United States Army, Navy, Air Force and defense industries and deliver it to Japan or Germany through Kunze, the Government claimed.

Molzahn's part, the Government charged, was to help Kunze obtain the passport of some neutral country other than the United States.