

Rev. Molzahn Convicted as German Spy

Faces 20-Year Term;
Bund Leader Kunze
Sentenced to Prison

HARTFORD, Conn., Aug. 21 (U.P.).—Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, leader of the German-American Bund, and two other men convicted of espionage charges were sentenced to prison terms today shortly after the Rev. Kurt E. B. Molzahn was found guilty of aiding them in obtaining secret military information for Germany and Japan.

Kunze, who had pleaded guilty to the spy charges, was sentenced to 15 years by Federal Judge J. Joseph Smith, who said he accepted the Government's recommendation in view of the Bund worker's "following of the ideas of a foreign government which is the enemy of the United States."

Others Get Lesser Terms

The others sentenced were Dr. Wolfgang Ebell, El Paso, Tex., physician, who got seven years, and Otto Willumeit, midwest Bund leader of Chicago, who was given five years.

Dr. Ebell was accused of operating an "underground railroad" for spies escaping to Mexico and specifically of aiding Kunze to leave the United States.

Willumeit's sentence was light because the prosecution asked for leniency, stating that he had "more character than the others," and had turned state's evidence.

The fifth man who had been named in the espionage indictment, Anastase Vonsiatsky, Russian Fascist leader, had pleaded guilty earlier and been sentenced to five years.

"These men took the attitude that the Axis would win the war and that Hitler would take care of them," Chief Government Prosecutor Thomas J. Dodd declared before sentence was passed.

Kunze, Ebell and Willumeit were sentenced shortly after Molzahn, Philadelphia Lutheran minister, was found guilty by the Federal jury.

Molzahn Faces Penalty

Judge Smith set next Tuesday for passing sentence on Molzahn, and at the same time instructed attorneys to be ready then to argue a defense motion to set aside the verdict.

Since the offenses for which Molzahn was convicted occurred during 1941 before the United States entered the war, the maximum penalty would be 20 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. The penalty for espionage in wartime would be death.

The specific charges against Molzahn were that he used his Old Zion Lutheran parish house in Philadelphia as a "post office" for German spies and that he aided Kunze in obtaining a fraudulent passport with which to leave the United States with valuable military information.