

# Priest Takes Stand Against

## Molzahn

Post 5/31/42  
By the Associated Press

Hartford, Conn., July 30.—A witness who said he traveled the length and breadth of the United States pretending to further the aims of members of an alleged Nazi-Japanese spy ring told a Federal Court and jury today of two meetings with the Rev. Kurt Molzahn of Philadelphia who, he said, was trying to help Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, German-American Bund leader, leave the country.

The witness at Molzahn's trial on an espionage conspiracy charge was the Rev. Aleks. Pelypenko, a Ukrainian who testified that he left the Russian Orthodox clergy in 1925 and was then ordained in the Ruthenian rite of the Roman Catholic church.

Testifying in Russian, through an interpreter, the stocky, smiling witness, clad in clerical garb, said he was in the employ of the FBI from March, 1941, until August 18 of that year and told about two brief meetings with Molzahn, one in mid-May last year and the other later that summer.

### Was Referred to Molzahn

On the first occasion, he said, he went to the German Consulate in Philadelphia and asked to be put in touch with men who were aiding in the spread of German propaganda, and was referred to Molzahn as "one of our prominent co-workers."

Molzahn, Father Pelypenko testified, enabled him to get in touch with the German Embassy in Washington and also advised him how Ukrainians could help "in the German aims."

At the second meeting, Father Pelypenko testified, he showed the clergyman a letter he had received from Kunze, whom he had met in the meantime, which bore Molzahn's initials and address as a return address.

### Called Kunze 'a Good Man'

The clergyman, continued the witness, referred to Kunze as "a good man" but also "a dunce" because he was "not very careful" in the matter of the return address.

Kunze, Anastase A. Vonsiatsky, a Russian Fascist leader from Thompson; Dr. Otto Willumeit, Chicago Bund leader, and Dr. Wolfgang Ebell of El Paso, Tex., were indicted with Molzahn on a charge of conspiracy to violate the 1917 espionage act by collecting United States military information and delivering it to Germany and Japan. Kunze was the messenger who would carry the information by way of Mexico, the indictment charged. All the accused excepting Molzahn pleaded guilty.

Father Pelypenko said he discussed Kunze's proposed trip to Mexico with Molzahn and that the pastor told him he had received a letter from Kunze about the matter "and did what he could."