

NEWS LETTER

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Figures in Text Indicate Reference Notes at end of Issue.

No. 115 November 20, 1940

GOEBBELS PEDDLES BRITON-BAITING IN USA

Nazi propaganda in the United States is working overtime to arouse anti-English sentiment. Vanguard of *Doktor Goebbels'* Briton-baiting is the Fichte Bund ¹), assigned to persuade the American people that the United Kingdom is thoroughly undeserving of United States' help; moreover, that such help would eventually bring the Western Hemisphere into the war.

World Peace or War of Destruction?

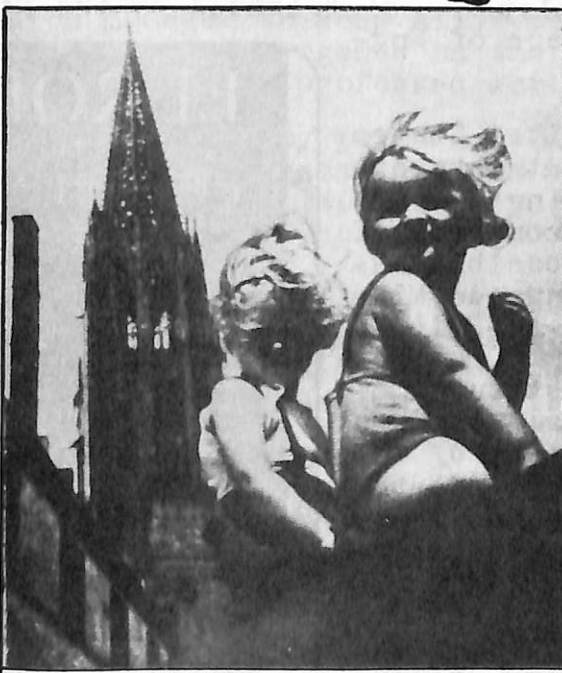
Adolf Hitler's Peace Plan. An Excerpt from the Führer's Speech Delivered Before the Reichstag on October 6, 1939

When reading certain international press publications or listening to the speeches of various passionate agitators of the world, I am often invited to speak and reply in the name of those who are interested in the living and dying for the most part of the world. I am often asked: "What are the chances of peace in the world and Germany are prepared to transform this hotbed into a zone of peaceful development, and that these two countries will assume the responsibility and bear the burdens inevitably involved."

The Truth About the Origin of the War.

A White Book has been issued in Germany containing the last details relative to the German-Polish crisis. To enable lovers of peace throughout the world to form their own opinion, I am going to quote the main points which the Führer has made in his speech.

August 25th, he received the British Ambassador and once more with complete frankness explained to him his view of the situation and communicated to him the main lines of a comprehensive and far-sighted policy which he had in mind for Germany.



The indictment of the mothers of Freiburg

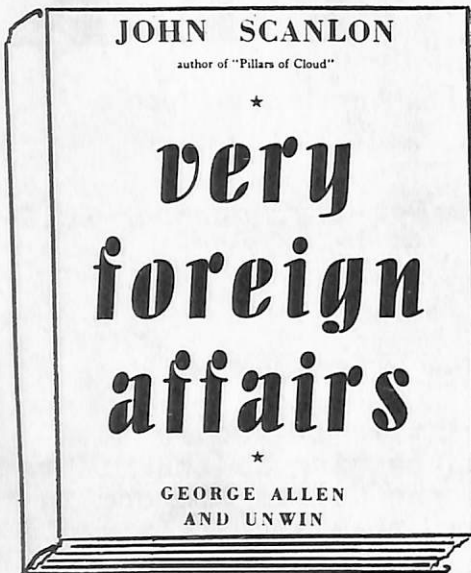
Full compliance with this Goebbels-decreed strategy is borne out by the first post-election shipment of Fichte Bund literature to reach these shores. A random handful of this material, methodically brought into this country through West Coast ports, comprises such items as the following:

(a) A book of nearly 300 pages, published in Great Britain directly after the Munich agreement, and entitled: "Very Foreign Affairs" (illustration on page 2). It came from the pen of John Scanlon, who also authored "Pillars of Cloud". The volume is super-critical of British statescraft, exhuming all such diplomatic manoeuvres of the past which could be interpreted to the advantage of the Third Reich.

(b) A pamphlet (illustration on page 2), entitled "Europe for Europeans", containing a reprint of a "written interview" which *der Führer* granted to Karl von Wiegand ²) on July 11th, last.

(c) A pamphlet (illustration on this page) entitled "The Indictment of the Mothers of Freiburg", crammed with photographs of children killed when this city was bombed. These pictures are presented in *Doktor Goebbels'* best *Schrecklichkeit* style, recalling to mind his Atrocity White Book ³), smearing the Poles. Doubtless, Great Britain could furnish

A handful of propaganda shells with which the Fichte Bund is now laying down a coast-to-coast barrage in the United States.



Front jacket of a 300-page volume, currently distributed gratis in great quantities all over the United States. -- This book constitutes one of the heaviest propaganda shells fired by the Fichte Bund. -- Story on page 1.

many counterparts to these pictures, among them children slaughtered by the score in the recent Coventry air raids.

(d) A postal card (illustration on page 3) in colors, reminiscent of similar propaganda material sent out to lay the foundation for the recapture of the Polish Corridor.

(e) A leaflet (illustration on page 1) entitled "World Peace or War of Destruction? Adolf Hitler's Peace Plan. An Excerpt from the *Führer's* Speech Delivered Before the Reichstag on October 6, 1939".

(f) Another leaflet (illustration on page 1) entitled "The Truth About the Origin of the War", furnishing a general survey of a White Book issued by the Reich, relative to the German-Polish crisis.

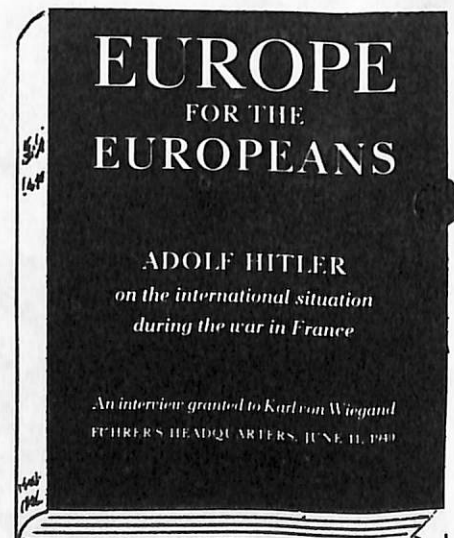
(g) A pamphlet of some 10,000 words (illustration on page 4), entitled "Ireland in the English Hell", and supposedly published by *Europa-Verlag* as one of a series of *Informations-Schriften* (Information Service). This essay, playing up to Irish insurgents, is an excerpt from Meyer-Erlachs' "Is God a Britisher?", a volume whose tendency is indicated by its title. The back of this pamphlet lists nineteen additional "information releases", and announces that the series "will be continued". Every single one of these pamphlets -- distributed by the Fichte

Bund! -- aims at subverting a specific sphere of English political or economic interests.

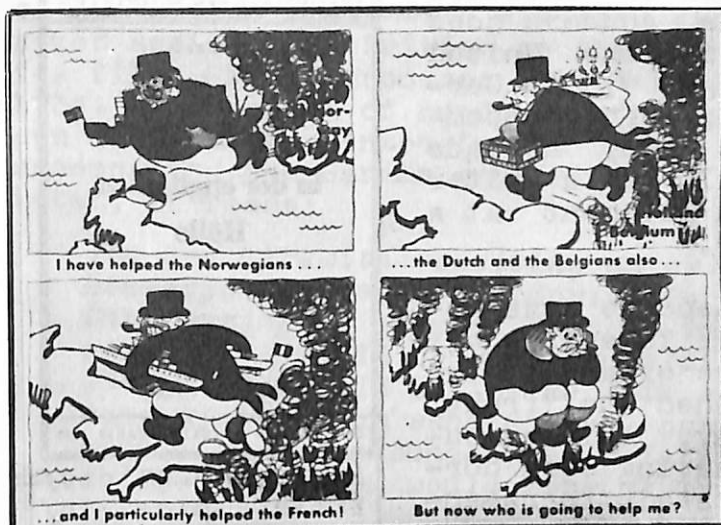
Fichte Bund has been active in the United States ever since Versailles. However, the current intensification of Goebbels-directed opinion-molding was not decreed until the Nazis realized that the nominees of both major parties promised to give all possible assistance to Great Britain. The Reich Propaganda Ministry was still more alarmed when the Aid-to-Britain sentiment was strongly seconded by such men as Dr. Robert A. Milliken of the California Institute of Technology, who averred: "American civilization can be defended in no other way than by victory of the Allies", and James W. Gerard, former United States Ambassador to Berlin, who declared: "There would be great danger to this country if Germany were victorious".

That individual expressions such as these were mere straws in the wind of public opinion, became evident to Berlin when Gallup Polls persistently indicated an overwhelming trend in the United States to come to the assistance of Great Britain. According to figures as of November 16th, fully 90 percent of all people expressed themselves "in favor of giving more help to England".

In the face of such unanimity, the Nazi propaganda general staff felt the necessity of putting



Another Fichte Bund publication, widely broadcast in this country. -- This reprint of Karl von Wiegand's interview, suitably Goebbels-edited, tries to convince the USA that Hitler's war does not concern the Western Hemisphere.



This self-explanatory postal card follows the same propagandistic pattern which was employed in preparing world opinion for wiping out the Polish Corridor.

even more pressure behind its recently launched emergency campaign, taking its cue from such organizations as, for example, the "America First Committee". Accordingly, many Nazi cells and swastika sympathizers immediately aligned themselves with extreme isolationist groups of various descriptions. In support of this movement, Dr. Goebbels' publicistic Big Berthas thunder across the Atlantic, laying down a barrage of anti-British propaganda through channels long since cultivated by the Fichte Bund.

Propaganda Veteran

"inventor" of the "Absolute Ego". Fichte's *Reden an die deutsche Nation* (Addresses to the German People) comprised a farrago of super-patriotic anti-Napoleon pep talks which stirred subjugated Germany during 1807 and 1808.

Fichte Bund is one of the most circumspect organizations of its kind. Frequently, but erroneously, translated as "fighting" Bund, the organization takes its name from a rabid Prussian philosopher, Johann Gottlieb Fichte (1762-1814),

Advertising itself as a "Union for World Veracity", Fichte Bund was organized in January, 1914, to establish an early foundation for a later refutation of Germany's guilt for World War I. By its very pan-Germanic nature, the organization managed to keep alive throughout the days of the German Republic, and, upon Hitler's emergence on the political horizon, took a new lease on life. It then expanded its professed activities to

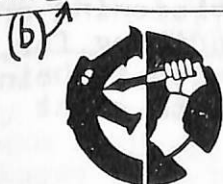
serve the cause of peace and understanding by giving free information about the New Germany direct from the source; to protect human culture and civilization by disseminating facts about world Bolshevism, its authors and dangers.

From its very beginning, Fichte Bund, managed by Heinrich Kessemeier, Hamburg, as *Bundesführer*, made it a point to annotate all its innumerable leaflets and handbills (illustration on this page), "printed in 130 languages", with the request: "When writing letters to foreign countries, please enclose a Fichte Bund leaflet".

Abgabe

(a) Wenn Sie Briefe ins Ausland schicken, dann legen Sie diesen bitte ein Fichtebund-Flugblatt bei.
Bisher sind erschienen 50 Flugblätter in deutscher, über 130 in fremden Sprachen. Bitte verlangen Sie Verzeichnis.
Bei Bestellung geben Sie bitte die gewünschte Sprache und bestimmte Stückzahl an.

unentgeltlich



Deutscher Fichte-Bund e.V., Gegründet im Januar 1914. (c)

Reichsbund für den Kampf gegen Versailles.

Hamburg 36, Jungfernstieg 30 (Hamburger Hof.)

Bankkonto: Reichsbank, Hamburg

Postscheckkonto 8939

Versailles muß fallen!

Every leaflet distributed by the Fichte Bund made this bid: (a) "When writing letters to foreign countries, please enclose a Fichte Bund leaflet"; note that (b) distribution is (c) free of charge and that (d) Fichte Bund leaflets are "published in more than 130 languages. Please ask for list. When ordering, designate desired language and quantities."

Herr Heinrich Kessemeier is the father of Theodore Kessemeier, manager of Fortra, Inc. This concern does a coast-to-coast land office business in the United States, shipping high-priced relief packages to Germany. Kessemeier pere is now a man of 64; before becoming the publicistic inspiration of Fichte Bund, he made a literary reputation of sorts for himself as a writer on the occult. His son joined the Nazi movement at a very early date, enlisting as Stormtrooper.

As soon as Hitler came to power, Theodore was appointed manager of the Hamburg Gas Works. To assist his father in his propaganda venture, Theodore organized the Falken-Verlag which, for some time, furnished the "front" for Fichte Bund publications. Eventually, this camouflage imprint was dropped. Now, after having been dormant for many years, it has been resuscitated to re-enforce the Goebbels propaganda drive over here.

INFORMATION-SCHRIFTEN

NUMMER 3

Irland
in der englischen
Hölle

EUROPA-VERLAG

1940 LONDON · BERLIN · PARIS 1940

Reproduction of title page of "Ireland in the English Hell", one of many similar hate pamphlets put out by "Europa" publishers.

Deutscher Fichte-Bund e.V.

Reichsbund für den Kampf gegen Versailles

Begründet Januar 1914
Sternsprecher 34 7016



Bankkonto Reichsbank Hamburg
Postbankkonto Hamburg 0939

Organisationsleiter
L/Schl.

Hauptstz: Hamburg 36
Jungfernstieg 20, Hamburg-1

6. Juli 1934.

In die
Illinois Staatszeitung
III./USA.

Chicago

Als Drucksache behändige ich Ihnen einen Aufsatz, betitelt

"Ein Franzose erlebt das Sowjet-Paradies".

Der im Hinblick auf die russisch-französische Verschwörung gegen den Weltfrieden zurzeit für die Öffentlichkeit von besonderer Wichtigkeit ist.

Ich wäre Ihnen sehr dankbar, wenn Sie mir nach Abdruck drei Belegstücke übersenden könnten.

Ferner behändige ich Ihnen anbei unser neuestes Flugblatt Nr. 641 sowie einen kurzen Hinweis darauf. Ich wäre Ihnen außerordentlich dankbar, wenn Sie auch diese kurze Notiz in Ihrem geschnittensten Blatt zum Abdruck bringen könnten.

Mit deutschem Gruss

Heil Hitler!



Organisationsleiter.

Facsimile of one of the many and regular "sales letters" which Fichte Bund addressed to editors of "American Newspapers Printed in the German Language", in order to drum up publicity for their leaflets.--Story on page 5.

While he was active in Hamburg, Theodore Kessemeier eased himself into the good graces of the Hamburg-America Line. This German shipping concern did considerable "relief package" business during World War I. When historical parallels in 1939 created conditions similar to those prevailing during the Wilhelmian Era, Theodore Kessemeier -- residing in the United States at the time -- immediately set up a string of relief package agencies, dotting the entire United States with them (illustration on page 5). Thus, between the two Kessemeiers, provisioning of, and propagandizing for, the Third Reich is being carried on with great energy.

Fichte Bund always displayed what is known in the vernacular as "push". This attribute became especially evident after the inception

of the Hitler Era. Time was when Fichte Bund propaganda was not so much aimed against the British or the French as against Bolshevist Russia. From its files, NRS reproduces a letter (illustration on page 4), dated July 6, 1934. A specimen of hundreds of identical circulars, addressed to "American Newspapers Printed in the German Language" ⁵, this particular letter accompanied the German reprint of an originally French essay. Verbatim translated, it reads:

You are herewith receiving an essay entitled: "A Frenchman Relates His Experiences in the Soviet Paradise". This thesis is especially interesting in view of the Russian-French conspiracy against world peace. I would be very grateful to you if, after reprinting the essay, you would oblige me with three copies for our files. At the same time, I am sending you our latest leaflet No. 641, together with a short announcement relative to it. I would be very much obliged if you would reprint this short notice in your esteemed paper.

With German Greetings, Heil Hitler!

FORTRA'S neue Weihnachts-Pakete

nach Deutschland
werden zoll- und spesenfrei in Haus geliefert

Paket "Neckar" \$5.50 3 Pfund gerösteter Kaffee	Paket "Main" \$9.00 6 Pfund gerösteter Kaffee
Paket "Ems" \$9.50 3 Pfund Kaffee, 2 Pfund Kakao 1 Pfund Orange Pekoe Tee	Paket "Havel" \$9.00 3½ Pfund Fleisch-Extrakt
Paket "Saale" \$8.00 Je 2 Pfund Schinken, Käse, Wurst, Schmalz	Paket "Isar" \$7.00 6 Pfund beste Butter
Paket "Donau" \$8.50 Je 2 Pfd. Schinken, Speck, Käse, 1 Pfd. Wiener Büchsen Wurst	Paket "Weichsel" \$14.50 3 Pfund Kaffee, 2 Pfund Butter, Speck, Käse, Dauerwurst, Schin- ken, 1 Pfund Wiener Büchsen Würstchen.
Paket "Iller" \$10.50 Je 2 Pfund Butter, Speck, Käse, Schinken, 1 Pfd. Wiener Büchsen Würstchen.	Paket "Mosel" \$16.00 3 Pfund Kaffee, 2 Pfund Kakao, 1 Pfund Tee, 2 Pfund Schinken, Speck, Käse, Dauerwurst, 1 Pfd. Wiener Büchsen Würstchen.
Paket "Spree" \$13.50 Je 2 Pfund Kaffee, Schinken, Kä- se, Schmalz, 1 Pfund Kakao, ½ Pfd. Orange Pekoe Tee	"Weichsel Special" \$17.50 6 Pfund Kaffee, 1 Pfund Wiener Büchsen Würstchen, je 2 Pfund Butter, Schinken, Speck, Käse, Dauerwurst.

Bei Wiederholungs-Sendungen an gleiche Adresse, 40c
Ersparnis. Wir garantieren schnelle Ablieferung

HANS F. BAUER, Distrikt Vertreter der FORTRA
608 SO. HILL STREET — Zimmer 205 — Los Angeles, Cal.
MADison 2681 — Abends HI-2540

Reproduction of "Fortra" ad as it appears in many "American Newspapers Published in the German Language", offering shipment of relief packages to Germany. This announcement capitalizes on Christmas, assuring prospects that packages will be delivered "free of duty and delivery charges". Hans F. Bauer, "District Representative of Fortra," at Los Angeles, is, like Theodore Kessemeter, a former employee of Hamburg-America Line.

(signature illegible)
Director of Organization

Goebbels at His Best

With typical Goebbels efficiency, every foreign-language department of Fichte Bund is in charge of a man who has lived for years in the very country which he is to cover with his propagandistic activities. Accordingly, the American section is directed by one Oscar C. Pfaus who, at one time, served in the regular United States army. He lived in Chicago for some years and, while domiciled there, organized the *Germanischer Bund*. This propaganda cell was simply the main Midwest distribution agency for Fichte Bund material. The *Germanischer Bund* never lagged in its efforts to plant such propaganda material (illustrations on page 6) as Axel Schmidt's "Against the Corridor", "The English Disarmament Plan as Viewed by Germany", "The Transformation of President Wilson's Idea of Disarmament", and "Armament Plans of Foreign Countries".

In the same way in which the Nazi regime seized upon the pre-Hitler Fichte Bund, it also pounced upon such pre-World War I institutions as annual "German Days" ⁶, held for many decades in all American cities of sufficient German population. This fact was bluntly

admitted in Julius Streicher's *Stürmer* 7) in January, 1936, in an article signed by Jakob Leimann 8), one-time leader of the German-Russian Alliance of Chicago. In this contribution, written in the usual Streicher-Goebbels style, Leimann went on record as follows:

In 1923, I emigrated to America and settled in Chicago, where I participated in German social life. For a few years I worked there as a reporter for the German-American-Russian Dakota Free Press, and in this paper described all my experiences in Russia.In 1930, I became founder for the Central Organization of Russo-Germans in America....I also came to know Mr. Oscar C. Pfaus, a loyal fighter for true Germanism in America....Mr. Pfaus was the founder of the Germanischer Bund....In 1933, after the National Socialist Revolution in Germany, I introduced a motion before the German Day Central Committee as follows: "That all un-German (i.e., non-Nazi!) elements should be excluded from the Committee". My motion was seconded by Mr. Pfaus of the Germanischer Bund, and by Fritz Gissibl 9) of the Friends of the New Germany....Thank God that our Führer has set up a strong National-Socialist regime in the Reich, and that he has men like Pfaus and Gissibl to work hard day and night....in the United States.

While some of the German Days made an effort to resist Nazification, most of them were eventually overwhelmed by a swastika element, wrapping itself into the Stars and Stripes. Main reason for this spectacular advance of Hitlerism in the United States was the existence of such organizations as Pfaus' *Germanischer Bund*. With Goebbelesque thoroughness, Pfaus set up branch organizations in many American cities, including Los Angeles. There, the management of the *Germanischer Bund* was entrusted to Ernest Rheydt-Dittmer, working in close cooperation with William Dudley Pelley's 10) Silver Shirts. Documentary proof from NRS files (illustration on this page), self-explanatory as it is, bears out this fact.

Pfaus' propagandistic activities were as intensive as they were widely dispersed. He was inordinately eager to establish "points of support" on the West Coast, and to this end embarked upon a protracted correspondence with "sympathizers". Eventually,

XI OLYMPIAD. BERLIN. 1936 • "WE'LL GO!"

"Germanischer Bund"
(GERMANIC ALLIANCE)

OSCAR C. PFAUS, BUNDES-FÜHRER, CHICAGO

552 Glays Ave.,
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
March 24th, 1934

CONCERNING CORRESPONDENCE WITH MRS. R. R. WRIGHT

The Silver Legion of America
683 Walker Auditorium,
730 S. Grand Ave.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Gentlemen:-

Enclosed please find my suggestion of a
LETTER to Mrs. R. R. Wright. I wish to point out to you once
more, that Mrs. Wright is a Lady who gives full support to
fine AMERICAN IDEALS.

If you should receive an answer from her,
(I am sure you will) do not hesitate to respond at once and,
in your response to her letter, send her an immediate invita-
tion to attend one of your meetings. If I am notified in time,
I shall consider it an honor to introduce Mrs. Wright to your
leaders.

I am also enclosing one of my PROTEST LETTERS,
which was published in the " California State Zeitung " of
March 23rd and, inasmuch as The Hon. Dickwine - - Correction:
Dickstein, is mentioned in the letter, I believe it will in-
terest you too.

Thanking you for past courtesies I am
with German American Greetings

Sincerely yours,
Ernest Rheydt-Dittmer
Germanic Alliance,
State of California

"WE'LL GO!"

Facsimile of self-explanatory Germanischer Bund letter. --Story on this page.

he pulled a boner by addressing a Seattle, Wash., "fellow Nazi". From its file of letters covering this particular phase of Pfaus' activities, NRS here-with offers an exhibit (illustration on this page) which requires no further comment.

While Pfaus was thus spreading a net over the whole United States, he also kept in close contact with the Americagerman Bund and with his Man Friday, Theodore Kessemeier. The latter, during his sojourn in the United States, had entrenched himself with the Bund's weekly, *Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter* (1) and contributed to its columns with great industry. Among articles from Kessemeier's pen, regularly featured by *Weckruf*, is an especially "noteworthy" one, which appeared on March 28, last, and begins as follows:

LABOR IN GERMANY AND ENGLAND

Enobled in the Former, Debased by Exploitation in the Latter Country

No Slums in the Reich in Contrast with Slum Life in Britain — Testimony of English Authorities — German Workers Share Joy of Living with the Rich — England Fears German Examples in Treatment of Labor — Underlying Reason Why England Declared War: Resentment of Economic Equality in all Ranks and Consequent Happiness and Prosperity.

(Correspondence)

Hamburg, March 8.—When to-day millions of people are influenced by fears and sorrows, the reason of this state of affairs cannot be explained by simply declaring that "it is war." People are asking why these conditions exist at all.

In the seven years of National Socialistic progress is con-

Deutscher Fichte-Bund e.V.

(The Fichte-Association was founded in January 1939 in memory of the great German philosopher Fichte)

Union for World Veracity

Serves the cause of peace and understanding by giving free information about the New Germany, direct from the source



To protect human culture and civilization by disseminating facts about world Bolshevism, its authors and dangers

Headquarters
30 Jungfernstieg, Hamburg, Germany

January 30th, 1939

Mr. _____

Seattle, Washington
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

Acknowledging the receipt of your letter dated January 7th, I wish to thank you sincerely for your welcome and really very interesting communication. Your friendly co-operation is highly appreciated.

It will be a pleasure for me to arrange that a number of Fichte Association pamphlets will be sent to you immediately. I am sure that this material will have the desired effect.

Yes, I do not doubt that _____ does not agree with your philosophy. None of his ilk ever does make concessions to the truth and fair play. But whether or not they'll admit the sincerity of our arguments the truth will ultimately be victorious even in America.

If you could see like I do these huge hordes of international Jews boarding all the ships going to America you too would realize that this mass of concentrated hatred and scheming will make the American people conscious of the danger. That is, if the Americans are really interested in the welfare of their country, and in the establishment of better international relations.

Thanking you again for your kind interest, and hoping to hear from you in the near future, I beg to remain yours most sincerely

Dir. of Organisation
Th. Kessemeier

b.o. Oscar C. Pfaus

Facsimile of letter by Oscar C. Pfaus, typical of hundreds of similar ones, addressed to United States prospects on Nazi Political Sucker List (6).

Nothing Like Trying....

Time and again, America-Nazis have tried to extend their propaganda front in the United States beyond the ever-narrower confines of George Sylvester Viereck's (2) "German Library of Information" (3) and "Facts in Review" (4). Attempts have been made to establish a national publication in this country, but the outbreak of Hitler's War put an end to these plans. Now Goebbels' ambition to cover the United States more thoroughly has been revived by putting more force behind the Fichte Bund activities which aim at taking a hand in United States policies, domestic and foreign. These developments bear out News Letter reports (5) published as early as one year prior to the presidential campaign. Then, Nazi chieftains in the Reich, and their emissaries in the United States, made it perfectly clear that they were "making plans to take a hand in American politics". They indicated that their camp followers would line up behind any nominee who would flat-footedly come out for isolationism.

Now that these plans have failed, the Fichte Bund is thrown into the breach, and ever greater amounts of propaganda material enter this country via West Coast ports.

For additional information on names and facts, see NRS back issues as follows: 1)-#96; #81; #68; #50; #30; 2)-#100; #92; 3)-#79; 4)-#56; 5)-#111; #104; 6)-#107; #93; #86; 7)-#111; #89; #48; 8)-#113; 9)-#81; #78; #53; 10)-#102; #88; #56; 11)-#112; #98; #66; 12)-#108; #97; #37; 13)-#109; #99; #42; 14)-#103; #83; #69; 15)-#32; 16)-#32.

* * *
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Samples of pamphlets which Germanischer Bund, as Midwest agency of Fichte Bund, distributed regularly and in large quantities. Note that pamphlets carry rubber stamp of "Germanischer Bund, Center of Germanism, Chicago, Illinois". While (a) was distributed in English, (b) is a reprint from Alfred von Wegerer's Berliner Monatshefte entitled "The English Disarmament Plan as Viewed by Germany"; (c) is a collection of "Polish Testimonials and Facts" compiled as ammunition to blast the Polish Corridor out of existence; (d) "Armament Plans of Foreign Countries".