

# Witness Says Hitler <sup>Star</sup> Directed Bund Units

By the Associated Press. 43

SAN FRANCISCO, July 21—The organization which later became the German-American Bund included 50 Nazi party members in its Chicago unit in 1926, and the Nazi party functioned as an organization in the United States until 1933, Peter Gissibl of Waukegan, Ill., testified in Federal Court yesterday.

Gissibl was the Government's first witness in its attempt to revoke the citizenship of 28 German-born naturalized Americans. All are charged with having held membership in the bund.

The cases have been consolidated for the hearing before Federal Judge Louis E. Goodman to determine whether the bund fostered disloyalty to the United States. The defendants then will be tried individually.

Gissibl said he and two of his brothers aided in organizing in 1924 the "Free Society of Teutonia" in Chicago. He said he was active until 1938 in the group, which became the German-American Bund in 1936. He also held membership in the Nazi party from 1922 to 1927.

When Hitler became chancellor of Germany, in 1933, orders came from Berlin, Gissibl related, abolishing party units in the United States and ordering all party members to join the prebund group.

He said his brother, Fritz Gissibl, became national leader of the bund and after a trip to Germany returned with an order that all members who did not hold American citizenship must resign. As a result, Fritz Gissibl resigned and named Fritz Kuhn as his successor. Then the former members were organized into a "Prospective Citizens' League" and were eligible for bund membership after they had obtained final citizenship papers.

Gissibl said the bund organized units in Milwaukee, Detroit, St. Louis, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Kansas City.

"We considered Adolf Hitler our leader," said the former bundist, adding that his brother, Fritz, the former bund leader, is now a member of the Gestapo in Germany.