

French Industrialist Charges NAM Official Listened to Fascists

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—Eugene Gentil, French industrialist and a director of the French Purchasing Commission, yesterday challenged the accuracy of Frederick C. Crawford's observations on his recent tour of France.

At a press conference in the offices of France Forever, of which he is founder and vice president, Mr. Gentil said "most of his (Mr. Crawford's) knowledge came from conversations with ultra-conservatives," whom Mr. Gentil described as "Fascist-minded people."

Mr. Crawford, board chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers, told the New York Chamber of Commerce yesterday that he found a "consumer boom" in France, that the French underground was made up "largely of Communists" and that he was told the underground robbed five trains for every one it blew up.

Pillaging Aided by Taxes.

"What Mr. Crawford calls a 'boom' is what is generally known as inflation," M. Gentil said. "By taxing the French people 500,000,000 francs a day for four years the Germans were able to spend lavishly, to pillage France in a legal way by exchanging inflationary currency against French goods."

Referring to Mr. Crawford's statement that he saw "fat horses drawing wagons equipped with rubber-tire wheels," the French industrialist declared:

"It's not a question of prosperity. The small farmers have worked hard and kept the farms in good condition, and not even the Germans could keep the grass from growing to feed the animals."

Thieving Denied.

M. Gentil denied the membership of the French underground was largely Communist. He said there were only two Communists among the 19 members of the underground's national council, and added:

"As for their thieving, we can state that in Paris, for instance, no one, not even Mr. Crawford, ever mentioned a case of burglary committed by members of the F. F. I. We are ready to open our files on the achievements of the F. F. I. and on the praise they received from the Allied commanders."

M. Gentil said the statement about the underground was "exactly what Vichy and Dr. Goebbels said for four years."

Manufacturer Says Writers Couldn't Cite Casualties

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 6 (AP).—Charles Kendrick, president of the Schlage Lock Co., who with five other manufacturers toured European fighting fronts, said yesterday that war correspondents in France "stated they wanted to get the news to the public, but that the unfavorable part of the news was deleted."

"They particularly believed that the public is entitled to know the number of casualties, as this is indicative of the character of the fighting," Mr. Kendrick said.

Mr. Kendrick made the statement in commenting on the address in New York City by Frederick C. Crawford of Cleveland, board chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers.