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Probe of Fascists In Cleveland Area Asked of Senate

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**LaFollette Urged to Investigate Association of
Leagues in Petition Signed by 1,700—
German-Americans Give Support**

By Louis F. Budenz

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Nov. 18.—A week of popular protest against Nazi activities in this area was climaxed yesterday with the sending to the United States Senate of a petition bearing the names of 1,700 Cleveland citizens, insisting upon an investigation by the LaFollette Committee of Susan Sterling's Fascist Association of Leagues.

The filing of this petition followed the picketing of the Ohio-Michigan convention mass meeting of the Nazi Volksbund here on Saturday night by the Cleveland Industrial Council of the C.I.O. and other progressive groups.

"C.I.O., bulwark of democracy, protests this Nazi meeting" read the large banner which led the 300 pickets who marched up and down in front of the Sons of Italy Hall, where the Nazi conclave was held. Musicians, employed by the Nazis for this opening affair, refused to go through the picket line of the C.I.O.

QUARANTINED

"Quarantined: This hall is infested with a social disease, fascism" read another sign, carried high by the pickets. The C.I.O. booed and shouted against the Nazis for three hours while Fritz Kuhn, chief Hitler stool pigeon, and others of his like spoke to a "mass meeting" of less than 200 Nazis, gathered from all sections of Ohio and Michigan.

On Sunday night anti-fascist German-Americans spoke up for democracy and against the Nazis in a meeting at the Little Theatre of the Public Auditorium. Dr. Hans Simons, professor of political science at the New School for Social Research in New York, declared for the deportation of Nazi agents back to Hitlerite Germany.

Dr. Erich Von Schroeder, editor of a German language paper in Chicago, warned that Hitlerite fascism, as evidenced also by its ally, Japan, would kill American children, if allowed to grow.

HIT PROFESSOR

Charges were also made at the meeting that Dr. Hugo Karl Polt, German professor at Western Research University here, had given the Nazi salute at the Volksbund meeting on Saturday night, and insinuations were made that Western Reserve is becoming a breeding place for Nazism.

The Association of Leagues against Communism, whose secretary is Susan Sterling, has been definitely linked up with the Nazis through the anti-Semitic Silver Shirts by Harry Becker, secretary of the Cleveland chapter of the American League against War and Fascism.

It is this chapter of the League which has filed the petition asking for the investigation by the LaFollette committee. Among the names on the long list presented to the United States Senate are citizens from every section of Cleveland life.

Elmer O. Fehlhaber, secretary of the Cleveland Industrial Council of the C.I.O., took the initiative in recommending the picketing of the Nazi mass meeting Saturday, which was agreed upon unanimously by the C.I.O. at its Wednesday meeting last week.