

DEMAND HORSEWHIPPING EPICS COMMUNISTS, JEWS, UNIONISTS, ATTACK STRIKERS OF SALINAS

bound motorist, almost on the outskirts of Atascadero. She demands that something be done about "these reds who go about the country beating up peaceful people." The lady ends amid applause. This was Mrs. Peggy Andrews. Her husband sits near us.

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Silver Shirt Leaders of Co-op Spending \$76,000 Resettlement Money While Damning Tugwell as a Jew

By a Worker Correspondent

ATASCADERO—The Silver Shirts are busy here, preying on the poverty of people whose whole history in this area has been one of being swindled.

This is a story of the plans, activity and personnel of this inspired band of would-be killers variously known as the

Silver Shirts, Silver Legion, and Christian Party. It casts a light on the aims and connections of the head of this organization: the Jew-baiter labor and communist hater and meglomaniac, William Dudley Pelley.

It is already clear that the big Fascist support is behind the Landon candidacy, which doesn't openly announce its Fascist aims. It has also been disclosed in the Western Worker how the Silver Shirts and other fascist and near fascist organizations have definite connections with the Republican campaign organizations.

In what circumstances do the Silver Shirts thrive?

Thrive on Poverty

The homes of many Atascaderoans have been taken from them, many were turned into the street; others are today paying rent to the Bank of America for the privilege of living in the home which they traded eastern farms or surrendered their life savings. As always, the Fascists are preying upon the hungry and the destitute.

Recently Ernest Rankard, 47, father of two children, collapsed. The doctor said "malnutrition". The Silver Shirts said the "Jews". Rankard with a wrist fractured on a W.P.A. project was refused relief by all agencies, told to pick prunes. After a couple of weeks of hunger he folded up. Neighbors fed the family. The Rankard case is only one. There are many others.

To Misdirect Resentment

Them Silver Shirts constantly are at work among these confused, and half-starved people. Teaching them to hate, not the capitalist system and the wealthy exploiters who have fattened up on their degradation, but to hate the Jews, the communist, the liberals, and the progressive

minced, all who believe in democratic rights and decent living standards.

The organizational plan of the Silver Shirts is simple and shrewd. The first Silver Shirt unit consists of a Safety Council. Atascadero has two. One of them gathers at the home of "Chamberlain" Finch, the other at the residence of osteopathic Doctor Maud Mills. Here the raw recruits attend one night each week while a "lesson" is read, describing to the credulous poor the beauties of the "Christian Commonwealth" to which Fuhrer Pelley promises to his legions for promises are indispensable to Nazi schemers.

The Fascist Promise

Here is a specimen: Pelley asserts in his "lessons" that on the first day of the "Christian Commonwealth" all parents having two children (the Rankards!) will automatically be provided with a lifelong monthly income of \$287.69!

Once the Silver Shirt recruits have accepted the belief that the words Jew, socialist, epic, unionist and liberal, are all one and all fit subjects for murder, they are invited to join the Silver Legion Post. Let us attend a regular Sunday evening meeting of the Atascadero Post.

We enter a large living room, and are greeted by Miss Elizabeth Nelson, the frosty young hostess. Miss Nelson is cashier in the First National Bank of Atascadero.

Someone complains that there is a small turnout tonight. There are about twenty Silver Shirts present. They are all ages, and about a third are women.

Hit Salinas Unions

One of these ladies takes the floor and shouts out a fantastic story about "a gang of Salinas strikers" beating up a north-

This meeting seems to have no chairman, although Chamberlain Oliva as well as Almoner Finch and Scribe Hawley are all present.

Another woman Silver Shirt is speaking. She quotes from Pelley's Weekly a claim that there are 150 communists in Atascadero. She wants action. She demands that something be done about the presence of these reds. This red baiting spinster is Miss Dorothy Wilcox, political appointee, and longtime assistant in the county library.

None Here, Yet

There follows a confusion of voices. All are in accord with Miss Wilcox. Many are inquiring, "Where are the reds? Who are they?" As a matter of fact, there are no communists in this town—yet, and only one Jew. Miss Hanson, one of the militant ladies, shrills that the local Epic Club is solid communist, and that the American Federation of Government Employees (which grew from an Unemployed Council) is a bunch of rotten reds, and should be run out of town.

Another voice fills the room. This is the belligerent Mrs. Holloway. She is the wife of Doctor Holloway, a retired chiropractor.

Doctor Holloway gave up chiropractics in favor of spiritualism. Once a week he conducts a class in that. Silver Shirts attend, and listen while the doctor, bible in hand denounces the Jews-epics-reds, and demands in the name of the Prince of Peace that these people be wipped into concentration camps.

Mrs. Holloway is demanding that the stockade that the Chief ordered built be built without delay. Would she like to go to work on some of these "red-epics", for whom the stockade is to be prepared! Well, Mrs. Holloway can't convey to her hearers how she itches to lay the horsewhip across the backs of the members of the A.F.G.E. and of the Epic Club.

And of Course, the Waterfront

A man's voice wins the lead. For a time this seemed to be ladies' night. Mr. Morton speaks briefly in support of action. He says that the San Francisco maritime unions who are defending their right to a decent life against the onslaughts of ship owners are "reds, planning to start a revolution in October." He denounces all unions and says they should be broken up. Mr. Morton wears a Silver Shirt with

a ~~stare~~ ~~new~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~over~~ ~~the~~ ~~head~~ ~~of~~ ~~Mr.~~ ~~Morton~~ ~~is~~ ~~talking~~. He expresses gratitude for support given by the American Legion, but doesn't state the nature of the support. He asserts that all communists are Jews and that all Jews are communists.

A sudden demand for silence. What's up? Chamberlain Finch is going to read a message direct from Pelley, America's Pocket Hitler. He reads amid awed stillness. The letter is dated from Redmond, Washington, near Aberdeen, and states that Pelley has doubled his gang's membership in the northwest since entering that area in July. Follows a General Order demanding the creation of a County Committee. This body to consist of three members who will in turn appoint Officer for Credentials, Officer for Commissary, and Quartermaster. Also provides for selection of liaison officer from each county.

"Jew Picked Out!"

Reading of the G.O. is greeted by cries of "Now we can build our stockade!" "I've got my Jew picked out!" "The Chief knows how to lead!" Chamberlain Finch motions for silence, and reads on. The information that Fuhrer Pelley has received scores of letters from loyal Silvershirts urging him not to "wait for the 'jew-communists' to start the revolution," but to "do something now!" brings another round of applause. The letter ends, and is not signed by Fuhrer Pelley after all, but by one of his subalterns, doctor Terry. Nevertheless it was written by the chief's command, and bears his will.

Someone shouts a sage prediction: "Whenever trouble starts all vigilantes will rally round and look to us to lead!"

Doctor Terry, "high" Silvershirt, an Atascadero, is a horse doctor who found himself without patients and joined the "Silver Legion Cavalcade" for the northwest drive.

The Post meeting, is by no means over, but will run for a full two hours and a half. There will be another hour of raving against the Jews, against the trade unions, against the liberal minded. There will be discussion of the evictions set for tomorrow on several Atascadero families by the HOLC. But the fact that evictions are routine functions of the capitalist system will not be mentioned. The "Jew-Communists will be held guilty, and torturings, and beatings, and torture.

But let us get away from these barking psychopaths and out into the clean air of the October night. A rotten social order, mad-

ject by "these" "laying, and therefore howling. But beware of dismissing these Fascists by saying they are nuts. Of course they are nuts, but the same was said, and is still being said, about their inspiration. Hitler!

The Under Cover Men.

Absent from tonight's meetings were two of the community "biggest" Silvershirts: Foxey Charles W. Eisenbise, and equally cautious O. F. Asbury. Both are stalwart Silvershirts, but have taken to cover recently in accordance with a well defined plan.

Asbury is manager of the Atascadero Trading Association, locally known as "the co-op," and Eisenbise, a former drunkard Deacon, is Secretary-Treasurer. Capture Farmers' Organization

The A. T. A. was organized in 1933 by desperate fruit and vegetable growers and poultrymen. These men and women were not fascists, they were honest workers and farmers crushed by capitalism's cyclical collapse.

But today Pelley's Fascist Bund is rapidly dominating the co-op. Recently under guidance of Silvershirts Asbury and Eisenbise A. T. A. negotiated a \$76,000 loan from Tugwell's Resettlement Administration. Four of A. T. A.'s seven directors are Silvershirts. Included are Life-body, Axe, Asbury, and Eisenbise.

Meanwhile Pelley's Weekly hypocritically attacks "Jew Tugwell," and asserts that the \$76,000 was "Jew money," while Asbury, Eisenbise, et al, further plans to turn A. T. A. into a fascist treadmill.

At present there are some fifty workers employed in A. T. A.'s fruit and vegetable canning factory. Others are chopping wood. Mostly old folks these men and women are paid \$1.18 in cash, and given commodities allegedly to the same value for a work day of eight and one half hours. These are the old people for the most part who came to Atascadero with hearts full of faith on the promise of security and ease for their declining years! In their desperate poverty they were wise enough to turn toward worker-farmer co-operation. But now the Fascists are seizing their co-op.

Black Reaction

As elsewhere in America, the Fascists are busy in Atascadero. They are misleading and betraying the already bewildered and angry workers. By means of cunning appeals to race hatred made so wide as to include as "jews" all those who cry out for a new social order, they are trying to lead the impoverished farmer and professionals into violence against labor, demo-

cratic and progressive organizations against the Communist Party and everything that represents progress.

Pelley does not tell his followers to vote for Landolt, or for Roosevelt, or for Lemke. He assures them that there will be no election! Let the workers and the liberals of the land think that over!