

# Silvershirts Meet Secretly Here but Come Out Openly in Pacific Coast Drive

## William Dudley Pelley, Head of Clan, Issues Orders for Membership Campaign In Dakotas

Fantastic rumors of impending revolution have been traced to members of an organization known as the Silvershirts and an affiliated group known as the "Christian Party." The Journal presents today the second of a series concerned with these secret societies and the strange beliefs of their members. The Silvershirts have been active in Minneapolis for six months. Their organizers claim 6,000 members in the state. A reporter for The Journal has gathered these almost unbelievable stories from his personal contact with members of the organizations.

By Arnold Sevareid

I sat in a Silvershirt meeting recently. Beside me sat a fluttery little woman. The talk concerned the national government. "Roosevelt," she sniffed. She leaned confidently toward me. "That isn't his real name. It's Rosenfelt. He's a Jew."

I was a neophyte, being initiated into the weird ways and beliefs of the "Christian Party," the outer circle of the Silvershirts organization in Minneapolis. This story of Roosevelt was one of the first of the many foibles I learned which are believed by members of this secret society that claims 300,000 members in America.

### Small Groups Gather in Secret Sessions

Right among your own neighbors, almost every night in Minneapolis, small groups are gathering in secret meetings.

On the west coast, particularly in Seattle, the Silvershirts have come out into the open for the first time. Members are traveling the state in motorcades. They appear in silver colored shirts emblazoned with a red "L" over the heart. It means "Love, Loyalty and Liberty."

"Dan Swett," reporter for the Jewish Transcript in Seattle, obtained the confidence of the Silvershirt leaders there under an assumed name. He met the "Chief" himself—William Dudley Pelley of Asheville, N. C. Pelley wants to be president when the "Jews are cleaned out of the country."

### Pelley Tells of "Good Beginning"

The reporter quoted Pelley as saying: "Yes, we've made a good beginning. From now on our slogan will be from Washington to Wash-

ington.' And then all you boys will be taken care of, you bet. I'm not one to forget my followers. The best jobs the country can offer will be yours.

"When I'm President, I think that I'll incorporate the Silvershirts into a sort of combination federal army and police force. I'm going to do away with the Department of Justice entirely. You fellows wearing Silvershirts now will take their place."

At this point Pelley arose to leave for the purpose of making a speech. "I've got a real message from God to deliver tonight," he told the reporter. Pelley is said

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actually believe in his own divine origin, "Swett" reported. Pelley is the man who wrote our American magazine article several years ago entitled, "Seven Minutes to Eternity," which purported to explain how Pelley had died and gone to heaven for seven minutes. In Oregon and California, too, the Silvershirts have been rapidly organizing. Their first public rally in Oregon was at Portland on August 15. According to Pelley's weekly, this meeting "attracted a packed house of Gentile Christians eager to be told the Silvershirt message regarding the true cause of our nation's troubles and what will bring a lasting national remedy."

## President

### Who Selected

Pelley's "running mate" for the presidency is a man named William Kemp, who lives in California.

August 6, 1934, The Journal carried an Associated Press story in Los Angeles telling of charges against a Congressional investigator who had observed Silvershirts at San Diego who were drilling each week with arms. Of course, would be to counteract the imminent "Jew-Red uprising" which the society now really expects to occur in September of this year.

On August 13, 1934, The Journal carried a photograph of the card issued to a military instructor by the Silvershirts. Kemp himself supposedly was drilling members with guns.

After that date, little was heard of Pelley and his Silvershirts until this summer when they suddenly came out into the open on the west coast. They met at Yakima, Wash., August 17, Seattle August 16 and Centralia, Wash., August 11. It is extremely doubtful, however, that their strength there is as great as they maintain.

## They Still Working

### Washington

Pelley still is working in Washington. But a Minnesota organizer said he probably will come to the region soon. He has been in Minneapolis a half dozen times, the organizer declared. Pelley is now giving orders that Minnesota leaders get busy out in the Dakotas, where members are scattered and

concentrated effort in North Dakota is set to begin within a few days.

is to start in Fargo.

tomorrow—"The Pyramids of Giza"