

# U.S. Secret Service Probes Threat to Shoot FDR

By DeWitt Gilpin

United States secret service agents are being stationed at all meetings of the Silver Shirts following the launching of a nationwide investigation of the fascist band by the government.

The move of the government against the Silver Shirts was made after the expose by the Record which revealed that Roy Zachary, Silver Shirt leader, had told a secret meeting of his followers and members of the German American bund here that he would volunteer to assassinate President Roosevelt.

Additional proof that Zachary had threatened to assassinate the President was later secured by the America League for Peace and Democracy in four affidavits from persons present at the meeting testifying to the threat of the Silver Shirt leader.



ROY ZACHARY

... He threatened to assassinate President Roosevelt.

Knowledge of the secret service probe of the Silver Shirts was revealed yesterday by the local press following a reported news "leak" from the state capitol in Springfield. Governor Horner acted against the Silver Shirts last Friday by turning over proof of the assassination threats against Roosevelt to federal authorities and requesting an investigation.

Contrary to press reports, however, the investigation of the Silver Shirts was not launched yesterday but began on May 10, the day that the Record's account of Silver Shirt-Bund meeting appeared. The Record, which cooperated in the investigation from the beginning, pledged to withhold news of the probe in order to facilitate apprehension of the fascist hoodlums.

The investigation is being conducted by secret service agents under the U. S. Treasury Department, the government body held responsible for protecting the life of the President.

Agents in Chicago under Capt. Thomas Callaghan and agents in Milwaukee and other cities where Zachary has held secret meeting have gathered extensive information which is thought to be sufficient for action against the Silver Shirt leader.

Zachary is the first assistant of Silver Shirt founder William D. Pelley who from Asheville, N. C., sends out literature to his followers advocating a fascist insurrection and the "removal" of President Roosevelt.

At the secret meeting of the Silver Shirts and Bund here on May 8, Zachary declared that

Roosevelt intended to become a dictator within a year and then said:

"If no one else will volunteer to shoot him," I will."

Zachary then said that Roosevelt would be replaced by Vice-President Garner and a "cleaning out" would follow.

Supplementing the secret service investigation of the Silver Shirt is one being conducted separately by the Dickstein Committee in Congress which recently wired the American League for Peace and Democracy for all its records concerning Zachary.

Meanwhile the latest individual to join with numerous prominent Chicago citizens and trade unionists in demanding decisive action against fascist bands in the U. S. was Dr. James M. Yard, executive secretary of the Chicago Round Table of Jews and Christians.

"It is time to disarm all fascist groups in the United States," Dr. Yard told the congregation of the Broadway Episcopal Church.

Dr. Yard urged passage of Federal laws making it a crime for any such organization as the German American Bund, the Silver Shirts and the Ku Klux Klan to carry arms.

"Fascism, which is modified and co-ordinated barbarism, will come to America," Dr. Yard warned, "unless we awake to its terrors and degradation. There must be a united movement of Catholics, Protestants and Jews against this threat to civilization."