

SILVER SHIRTS RAP F.D.R. AT MEETING HERE

New Deal Assailed as 'Jewish Contraption' by National Organizer at Minneapolis Meet; Councils Formed.

Approximately three hundred persons last Friday night attended a meeting of the Knights of the Silver Shirts in Minneapolis and listened to a vitriolic attack on President Roosevelt by Roy Zachary, National Silver Shirt organizer.

The wild-eyed southerner told his audience that President Roosevelt was a Jew, that he is surrounded only by Jews and that he is led and controlled by Jews. He denounced the New Deal as a Jewish contraption and blamed that race for every ill which plagues society today.

The meeting was held at Ark Lodge A. F. and A. M., 3044 1st Ave. So., where a number of Silver Shirt meetings had recently been held. Another Silver Shirt meeting, ostensibly a meeting of Silver Shirt organizers, was held on Tuesday night at the Royal Arcanum Hall, 3011 1st Ave. So., Minneapolis.

Explains Hall Renting

W. W. Rowell, trustee of Ark Lodge, stated the hall was rented to the Silver Shirts under a false presentation as to the purposes of the meeting. He stated that those renting the hall said that it was to be used for an educational lecture and that the Silver Shirts will not in the future be permitted the use of the hall.

While the trustees of the lodge, according to Mr. Rowell, did not know the purposes for which the hall was being rented, it had been common knowledge in Minneapolis that the Silver Shirts held meetings at that place on several occasions.

Chairman of the meeting was T. G. Wooster, 2124 Garfield Avenue, listed in the telephone directory as

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a salesman, but known to be a paid official of the Silver Shirt organization.

Drake, Beldon Present

Among those present at the Friday night meeting were George K. Belden, president of the Associated Industries of Minneapolis, and Dr. Charles Drake, member of the Minneapolis School Board.

In his rambling and at times incoherent talk, Zachary said that the ballot was not to be used in "solving the Jewish question," plain indication that the Silver Shirts were about to embark on a campaign of direct action. He scoffed at democratic processes, but strangely declared his belief in Americanism.

Zachary, quoted some time ago in a Chicago newspaper as having declared at a Silver Shirt meeting that if no one else would assassinate Roosevelt, he himself will do it, denied the accuracy of that newspaper report.

Tuesday Meeting

Approximately 75 persons were present at the Tuesday night meeting, which Zachary again addressed. They decided to form secret councils with from three to twenty-five persons in a council.

"We want to keep secret," he said, "until we are strong enough to blow the lid off the town. We are ready to do this in Chicago this Saturday and when we are strong enough in Minneapolis we will blow the lid off here."

President Roosevelt again came in for bitter denunciation. Zachary said that Roosevelt was in southern waters unaccompanied by any newspapermen, for the purpose of being about to visit Leon Trotzky in Mexico unobserved.

The Jews, the speaker said, were responsible for the murder of the Lindbergh baby.

Zachary told his "organizers" to tackle the "big businessmen" and see that they contribute at least \$100 a month each to the cause. The money

he assured, would be sent direct to the national head of the organization, William Dudley Pelley, where it would be used "secretly but properly."

Zachary was asked if he knew why Henry Ford discontinued publication of his Dearborn Independent and made his public apology to the Jews for his anti-Semitic campaign.

"Yes, I can answer that one," he replied. "The Jews were going to kidnap Mrs. Ford and that made her very hysterical. It was the case of a hysterical woman. That is the reason."

Asked his opinion on the work which Rutherford, anti-Catholic radio commentator and pamphleteer was doing, Zachary said, "I guess he's all right. He has some good points."

The Silver Shirts, generally regarded as the most current version of the Ku Klux Klan, started out a few years ago with violent attacks on both Jews and Catholics, but has recently changed its policy and is concentrating its attacks exclusively on Jews.

Following the meeting a fist fight developed between a newspaper photographer who attempted to take pictures and a James Skorstad, ostensibly a Silver Shirter. A police gun squad was on the scene and prevented what appeared to become a mob fight.

Skorstad was quite active at the meeting, getting on his feet on several occasions to make speeches.

"I have tried to get my Legion post (he is a member of Wenell post, American Legion) interested in this kind of work," he said, "but they are always fooling away with things which do not amount to much. I never succeeded in getting them interested."