

SILVER SHIRTS SEND DEATH THREAT TO CHI. DAILY RECORD

Police Meanwhile Hold Maerz, Chicago Fascist
Leader After Window-Smashing at Jewish Store,
and Deluge of Extortion Letters

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, Oct. 27.—The Daily Record, progressive newspaper in this city, has turned over to the Department of Justice a crude death note sent to them by the Silver Shirts, anti-Semitic fascist group which has been conducting a terrorist campaign against Jewish merchants in Chicago.

The death warning, similar to the one received by Goldblatt Bros. department store, before its windows were defaced with swastikas and smashed with bricks, and which led to the arrest of three Silver Shirts, said:

"You are notified to place before next Friday morning under the Humboldt monument in Humboldt park the sum of \$5,000 in used, unmarked notes.

"Failing on this will be considered as refusal and than you

will be kidnaped and slain like the other Jewry."

The note was signed "Terrible Deutscher-Italian, Silver Shirts Bunds Headquarters."

The extortion letters addressed to the Goldblatt Brothers and to the Daily Record were both sent without postage.

ARREST FASCIST LEADER

Police seized Homer Maerz, local fascist chief, and two fellow members, George Heppner and Joseph Schimpf, who admitted breaking the plate glass windows of the Goldblatt Department Store at Chicago Ave.

Maerz, who is head of the German-American Alliance and the so-called Dearborn Crusaders, was held incommunicado. Police Sergt. Ralph Miller, who summoned FBI agents to question the trio in connection with extortion letters, said that the fascists had also confessed smashing windows in other Jewish-owned stores.

He said extortion letters posted in Chicago had also been mailed to "Rabbi" S. S. Kresge, New York five-and-ten cent store chain head and to numerous Jewish merchants, lawyers and judges whom he refused to identify.

Federal investigators are seeking to link Maerz and his fascist cronies to the extortion letters. They seized a typewriter at Maerz's home to see if it was used in writing the death notes.

Miller said that the trio could be held on a malicious mischief charge carrying a penalty of one to 10 years imprisonment while Federal agents continue investigation of the extortion letters.

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