

(From Equality, March 1940, p. 32.)

REV. GERALD LYMAN SMITH

This former pastor of a fashionable Protestant church in Shreveport, La., and No. 3223 in ~~the~~ Pelley's Silver Shirts has announced his intention to overthrow the government of the U.S. by force. Mr. Hoover and the F.B.I. please take notice!

As far back as July 25, 1936, he stated in an interview: "You know what my ambition is? I think chaos is inevitable. I want to get as many people as I can now, so that when chaos comes I'll be a leader. I lead them now. Since Huey's death, 6,000,000 have committed themselves to me, in writing. They wrote me, "You're our leader. We'll follow you."

A few weeks later, on August 15, he wrote to Pelley: "By the time you get this letter I shall be on the road to St. Louis and parts north together with a uniformed squad of young men composing what I believe will be the first Silver Shirt storm troop, in America."

It was the later Huey Long who first engaged Mr. Smith to work for him in organizing the Share-the-Wealth movement. Rev. Smith obligingly "shared the wealth" at \$650 per week, proving to the hilt ~~that~~ Barnum's sage remarks about suckers. After the collapse of Huey's "empire" Smith went to look for a job. According to a former pal of his, Smith "has been on the payroll of everything else, from the Ku Klux Klan down to the A.P.A.....And now he is out to the highest bidder!"

At the present time he is in Detroit broadcasting every Sunday over WJR (Coughlin's station). About his diatribes the Akron Beacon-Journal writes: "The tone of his hate masked by Bible-thumping fervor, the appeal to passion, the crude red-baiting, the self-glorification....hesdall impresses us as having Fascist ants in his pants!"

Hatefulness is not the monopoly of any creed, and in men like
Gerald Smith Protestants have their special cross of shame to bear.