

Rep. Thill's Pro-Nazi Talk Brings Movement for Recall

By N. Sparks
(Special to the Sunday Worker)

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Jan. 10.—As a result of the upsurge of indignation against the brazen "appeasement as usual" speech made by Congressman Thill (Republican) of Milwaukee last Dec. 17, a full-fledged recall movement against Thill is now in progress.

The movement, initiated by Frank Smith, a young businessman, whose brother is an engineer in the Navy at Pearl Harbor, stems from the speech made by Thill before the Junior Chamber of

Commerce, Dec. 17. The speech, a brazen attack on national unity ten days after Pearl Harbor, accused President Roosevelt of "violating the criminal code" in the destroyer deal with Great Britain, prophesied a war of at least five to ten years, demanded "publicity for defeats," declared that "the Nazi danger to South America is over-emphasized," and most amazing of all Thill was quoted as saying, in response to a question: "In ten years Roosevelt and Hitler may both be dead, and then the people will have something to say."

The speech drew an amazed editorial from the Milwaukee Journal, entitled "What Is Thill Up To?" numerous letters of indignation to the press, as well as widespread condemnation by unions and other organizations.

TREASONABLE SPEECH

In a statement issued immediately by the Communist Party, Fred Bassett Blair, State Chairman, and Ned Sparks, State Secretary, declared in part: "The utterances of Congressman Thill before the Junior Chamber of Commerce will shock all Milwaukee. Not since the declaration of war has there been a public speech anywhere in the United States that will be so much welcomed in Berlin . . . This whole discreditable performance, at a time when national unity is the accepted watch-word, shows that the treasonable ideas of the America First Committee have not disappeared with the dissolution of the organization. Thill's speech is undoubtedly a trial balloon . . ."

Especially significant was the outright condemnation of Thill's speech by the Milwaukee Central Federation of German-American Societies, since Thill had undoubtedly speculated on the predominant German - American population of his district as a basis of his fifth-column sortie. Equally important was the condemnation of Thill's remarks by the regular quarterly meeting of the State Board of the Wisconsin CIO.

The recall petition, under Wisconsin law, must obtain 42,000 signatures within the Congressional District within 60 days, after which a recall primary and election will be held in the spring.

hereby demand the recall of Lewis D. Thill, Representative of said District."

The recall movement has open-

ed regular offices in the Plankinton Arcade building and is already organizing the petition campaign.

RECALL PETITION

The recall petition sets forth: "Whereas, Lewis D. Thill . . . did on Dec. 17, 1941, make a scurrilous attack in public on Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States; and

"Whereas, we are presently engaged in a world-wide war which, for our own preservation, requires a maximum in national unity and cooperation; and

"Whereas, the said Lewis D. Thill did in public accuse Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, of a violation of the criminal code, of committing acts of war, or hostile acts leading to war, of falsifying dates; and further expressed doubt about the successful outcome of this war for the United States; and

"Whereas, such public comments have the effect, particularly when uttered by a representative of the people, of destroying public confidence in the leader of our nation, destroying the morale of our Army, Navy and our citizenry, and creating suspicion, distrust and disunity which may affect our nation disastrously, and

"Whereas, such remarks serve no useful purpose in these times other than to give comfort and solace to our avowed enemies;

"Now, therefore, we, the undersigned qualified electors of the Fifth Congressional District, do