

# How a News Service Spreads Nazi Propaganda in

## Transocean Floods Western Hemisphere with Anti-Semitic and Pro-Hitler Dispatches

By HENRY PAYNTER

A good part of Hitler's spying and propaganda work in this country is handled by ostensibly private corporations which help Nazi diplomatic and consular agents in their program of corruption of the U. S. A.

Some of these, as will be shown, are engaged in outright espionage. Others are merely "collecting important economic and political information in the United States" for transmittance to Germany, while actively engaged in Nazi propaganda here in Hitler's undeclared war against the U. S. A.

Transocean News Service is one of the latter. It maintains radio contact with Berlin, and close relations with the German Embassy in the U. S. A.

Transocean sends thousands of words of "news" daily to Berlin; not a word of it printed in Germany.

During the last few days many prominent New Yorkers have received at their homes a well-printed copy of *The German White Paper: Full Text of the Polish Documents and the Report on Ambassador Bullitt's War Attitude*.

Printed on the cover is the price of \$1. But at least 1000 persons received copies free, ostensibly mailed by Howell, Soskin & Co., Inc., the publishers.

A Republican leader had a hand in the distribution.

### Used by Speakers

The alleged documents contained in the book have been used by speakers in Congress and editorial writers critical of the Administration, despite official denial of authenticity, to support charges that President Roosevelt has secretly "meddled" in European power politics.

To show how such charges spread, it will be recalled that Wendell L. Willkie said in his acceptance speech recently:

"He (President Roosevelt) has secretly meddled in the affairs of Europe and he has even unscrupulously urged other countries to hope for more help than we are able to give."

The *White Paper* has a foreword by G. Hartley Grattan, author of *Why We Fought*. An excerpt from the latter apologizes for German deportation of Belgians for forced labor in the first world war. It says:

"As to the treatment the (Belgian) deportees received in Germany, the fact remains that many of them, when they returned to Belgium after the war, complained that they had had an easier time in Germany than at home!"

In the foreword to the present paper, Grattan says:

"We cannot, it should be clear, conclude that American policy is wrong because it happens to fit in with what Germany would like to have us do; . . ."

President Roosevelt labeled the *White Book* as unabashed propaganda. Secretary of State Hull said its contents did not represent "in any way, at any time, the thought or policy of the American government," and said the State Department did not place the "slightest credence" in the charges contained therein.

### 'Potocki Letter'

The book contains an alleged letter from Count Potocki, Polish Ambassador at Washington, relating to a purported conversation he had with Ambassador Bullitt in which Bullitt promised before the outbreak of war that the U. S. A. would eventually enter it.

Potocki branded the letter as a forgery. Bullitt denied the conversation. Senator Pittman, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said the reports were circulated by Germany as "an unmitigated falsehood designed to create dissension in the United States."

Another alleged Potocki letter says:

"There is a feeling now prevalent in the United States marked by growing hatred of Fascism, and above all of Chancellor Hitler and everything connected with National Socialism. Propaganda is mostly in the hands of the Jews who control almost 100 per cent radio, film, daily and periodical press. . . . In this action Jewish intellectuals participated; for instance, Bernard Baruch; the governor of New York State, Lehman; the newly appointed Judge of the Supreme Court, Felix Frankfurter; Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, and others who are personal friends of Roosevelt. . . . For this Jewish international, which, above all, is concerned with the interests of its race, to put the President of the United States at this "ideal" post of champion of human rights, was a clever move."

Now, how did this de luxe Hitler propaganda come to be circulated free, backed by Hitler money?

When the alleged Polish documents were first announced by the German government last Spring, Howell, Soskin & Co., Inc., a reputable firm of U. S. publishers, decided they could turn a penny by getting out a cheap edition here. They thought of it as an interesting historical document, not as Nazi propaganda.

So William Soskin asked the German Embassy at Washington if a copy were available.

One week later there appeared in Soskin's office a representative of Transocean News Service, of 341 Madison Ave., which said it

had received a full cabled text—about 30,000 words—and that it had the only copy of the text in the U. S. A.

Howell, Soskin & Co. did not have to pay a penny in cash but did promise 10 per cent royalties on the book sales. Regular book store orders around the country have totaled, to date, about 2500 copies. (Grattan was selected at the suggestion of Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes, whose opinion was sought by the publishers.)

But the free copies were mailed by agents of Ralph Beaver Strassburger, of Norristown, Pa., currently active in Republican politics.

### Francophile

Strassburger, in his newspaper, the Norristown *Times-Herald*, loudly defended Roosevelt's foreign policy, and was a stockholder in the *New York Post*, a Roosevelt champion. He lives at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York, has an office at 60 Wall St. Despite Germanic ancestry, he was a money-spending Francophile, had homes in Paris, Deauville and Lombardy. Bullitt was one of his closest friends.

Strassburger, a graduate of Annapolis, was an important member of U. S. Naval Intelligence.

Strassburger called Soskin, then sent around an agent who purchased 1000 copies

in the name of the Norristown *Press*. They were paid for in cash. The agent also demanded 1000 Howell, Soskin mailing stickers which were thrown in.

PM has not as yet been able to get an explanation from Strassburger as to his motives in the transaction, but the publishers were told that Strassburger thought circulation of the book would discredit the Roosevelt Administration and Bullitt.

Transocean isn't always so roundabout. It furnishes a full cable news report, offering to compete with such agencies as the United Press and the Associated Press, at ridiculously low rates, or free.

Transocean makes no bones of collecting important economic and political information here of interest to Germany. Most of its outgoing messages pass through the Press Wireless transmitter at Little Neck, L. I., by arrangement with Transradio, which uses Press Wireless time. There is no connection between Transocean and Transradio.

Transocean receives much of its Berlin-New York communications over its own short-wave radio station.

Transocean in the U. S. A. is in charge of Dr. Manfred Zapp, a German. He occupies a bachelor suite at the Hotel Gladstone, which, during his periodical visits to Washington for instructions, is occupied by First Secretary Heribert von Stempel of the German Embassy in Washington.

Transocean, 25 years old, served Germany well during the last World War. It maintains listening posts in every European country

except England. Its correspondent at Washington is not registered with the State Department as an agent of a foreign corporation.

#### **Paid by Germany**

Although Zapp is registered with the State Department as an agent of a private corporation, he is actually paid by the German government: salary, 1200 reichsmarks a month.

Transocean's report appears in Hitler's propaganda organs in the U. S. A.

Transocean service is supplied free of charge to Latin-American newspapers and has been offered as a substitute for AP and UP reports, supplanting U. S. news with Nazi-anti-Democratic propaganda.

Transocean also supplies Latin America with headlines. Samples:

"A Jew Frankfurter in the Supreme Court of the United States (*El Universal*, Mexico City). "Colonia Yanqui or Palestina of America" (*El Liberal Progressista*, Guatemala City).