

Sees Peril in Second Front Now

N. Y. SUN

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British Economist Says It Would Probably End in German Victory Over Allies.

A second land front in Europe now would quite probably lose the war for the United Nations, John Webb, a British economist who has achieved considerable reputation by his war predictions, declared in an interview at the Waldorf-Astoria today.

Here's how the New York Sun displayed its attack on the second front by an admitted friend of Nazi propaganda chief Goebbels.

Expose Anti-2nd Front 'Expert' as Swindler

By Eric Webber. DW 10/18/42

John Webb, to whom the New York Sun threw open its columns for a scathing attack on the second front, is an admitted friend of Nazi propaganda chief Goebbels, a fraud, an ex-convict, it is revealed by information in the possession of The Worker. He is not a "British economist" or "managing editor of the International Who's Who" as stated by the Sun.

This man, who declared in a Sun interview of Oct. 6 that "a second front in Europe would be in line with Axis wishes," is being sought by the British police for money owed a British publication.

Upon the appearance of the Sun interview, The Worker cabled its London correspondent Alan Wittington for a check on Webb. The return cable revealed that the man's entire story is a lie and that

his statements were in the interest of the Axis.

International Who's Who told our correspondent that John Webb was not connected with the firm. They stated that in 1938 he disappeared with money obtained through sale of books purchased from them on credit. Police efforts to trace him failed. He was believed to have gone to Canada. Last Sunday's

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Sunday Pictorial of London published a cable from John Walters its New York correspondent, giving particulars of an interview with John Webb who admitted having been a guest of Goebbels and other prominent Nazis in Germany before the war. He is an intimate of British fascists, Mosley and William Joyce.

The New York Sun's interview with Webb is indicative of what levels the same papers will go in order to combat public sentiment for a second front now.

CRIMINAL RECORD

Under various aliases, John Webb has been convicted about eight times on criminal charges involving various kinds of fraud and theft. He is a South African and most of his recorded criminal career was in that country in the 1920's.

He operated in England during most of the 1930's and started a number of so-called patriotic organizations among which was the Empire Society, which was referred to in the New York Sun interview.

Here is how John Webb, who was used by the New York Sun to further their anti-second front policies, operated.

He would start a patriotic society which was supposedly a non-profit organization. He obtained outstanding English patrons. Then Webb would start in conjunction with these organizations, a commercial company devoted to the publication of yearbooks or magazines, the profits of which he pocketed.

The Empire Society collapsed, as all of his fraudulent projects had and in 1939 he turned up in Canada.

He represented himself as an employe of two publications in England, a weekly news digest and an annual called International Who's

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He represented himself as an employe of two publications in England, a weekly news digest and an annual called International Who's Who. The latter, for whom he was canvasser, was trying to locate him in order to obtain the money he had fled with.

POSED AS 'EDITOR'

John Webb has no connector with the publication. And yet in the interview with the New York Sun, he declared that he was the "managing editor."

He was a member of Mosley's pro-Nazi group in England and had a close contact with a member of the German Embassy in London shortly before the war.

His claim to being an economist, the fact which the New York Sun played up to ridiculous proportions, is a flagrant lie.

The eagerness on the part of the New York Sun and publications of similar ilk to use material from convicted criminals like Webb indicates the nature of these papers.

Had the Sun taken the primitive professional precaution of making one telephone call to check the authenticity of this man's background, they would have found him to be both a liar and pro-fascist.

Had the New York Sun merely telephoned as is customary in the case of such stories, to the British Information Service which is maintained for this purpose, they would no doubt have been told that Webb was an impostor.