

Nazi Embassy Officials Scoff At Uproar Over Westrick

Part 8/13/40

Hitler's Agent in U. S. Only to Promote Post-War Economic Amity, They Say

"What would you think if the German press got excited about an American diplomat's ordering ice cream in Berlin . . . called it mysterious when he lunched with a few German businessmen . . . if the neighbors took down the license number of all his visitors?"

This was the query yesterday of a German Embassy official who scoffed at "charges" against Dr. Gerhard A. Westrick, commercial counselor of the German Embassy, and now the object of an FBI investigation.

The "mysterious G signal at Dr. Westrick's home in Scarsdale

(N. Y.) is nothing but a sign furnished customers of a certain Good Humor Ice Cream company there, to put up in the window when they want ice cream," the diplomat asserted.

"Rather harmless, eh?" he said. The question of the activities of Baroness Irmingard Van Wagenheim, secretary to Dr. Westrick, was not discussed at the meeting.

Commenting on the counselor's omission from an automobile driver's application of the fact that he had a wooden leg, the official said that Westrick apparently had construed the application as

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BARONESS
IRMINGARD

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meaning physically qualified to operate a car.

So dexterous is Westrick in the use of his wooden leg that many of his closest friends were unaware of the artificial limb until it was revealed in newspaper stories of the past two days, he declared.

Meanwhile the German Embassy reiterated a statement of Hans Thomsen, the charge d'affaires, on Westrick's arrival here June 6: "He is here to investigate the possibility of a satisfactory post-war relationship between Germany and the United States."

"Germany, of course, is confident of an early victory . . . after that victory there will be several difficult problems affecting the economy and relationship of both Germany and the United States."

Gives Up Auto License

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New York, Aug. 2.—In response to an order from Commissioner Carroll E. Mealey, of the State motor vehicle bureau, requiring Dr. Gerhard Alois Westrick to surrender his automobile license plates and driver's license pending a hearing on his right to retain them, the commercial counselor to the German Embassy visited the commissioner this morning.

In the course of a half hour's conference it was learned that the Nazi counselor insisted on standing on his diplomatic rights and argued that, as an attache of the German Embassy, he was immune to any local legal proceeding and that the bureau lacked jurisdiction.

Commissioner Mealey, however, held that when the counselor signed the application for a license he placed himself under the jurisdiction of the bureau. The counselor agreed to give up his plates and licenses pending the outcome of a hearing, for which a date has not been set, but which is expected to take place within a week.

Surrounded by newspapermen as he came out of the commissioner's offices, Dr. Westrick said he "was not allowed to make any statement."

Asked what he had discussed with Commissioner Mealey, he insisted it had nothing to do with the license matter, but that it included "many things."

Pressed for some comment, he remarked, "I would like to make a statement. If I could have made a statement all this would not be necessary. That business about the 'G' at my window—that is all nonsense."

Dr. Westrick was referring to a placard with the letter "G" on it which appeared intermittently from the second-floor window of his home at 188 Mamaroneck road, Scarsdale, and which is thought to be a signal for the delivery of certain ice cream products.

Upon continued urging the counselor said, "My sole duty in this country is to prepare the way for better trade between Germany and the United States after the European war."