

Pro-Nazi Lithuanians Pack Dewey Committee

Die-hard pro-Nazis and fomenters of disunity are part of the "All American Committee for Dewey," it became evident last week when the Lithuanian pro-Nazi weekly "Vienybe," published in Brooklyn, disclosed the names of the Lithuanian members of the committee.

The "All American Committee" for the election of Republican candidate Thomas E. Dewey for Governor of New York State becomes an apparent misnomer when the affiliations and connections of these members are closely investigated.

Of the three Lithuanian members of the committee, two are avowed admirers of the pro-Nazi, fascist former dictator of Lithuania, Antanas Smetona. One is K. R. Jurgela, a notorious Coughlinite. The other is Mrs. V. Tysliava, wife of the editor of "Vienybe." The third member and chairman of the committee is William J. Drake-Dragna, Republican candidate for the United States Congress from the 9th Congressional (Queens) District.

Jurgela, who is a regular contributor of anti-Soviet and pro-Nazi articles to "Vienybe," is also the foreign news informant and "expert" concerning Lithuania to the Brooklyn "Tablet." Always a

bitter enemy of the Soviet Union, he still continues to write and shout tirades against the Russians.

Mrs. Tysliava besides her open admiration for the pro-Nazi Smetona, is a significant figure in pro-Nazi Lithuanian circles and is regarded as a presentable front for her husband Joseph Tysliava, whose brazen pro-Nazi statements might embarrass the committee if he were a member. It was Tysliava's "Vienybe" which carried the banner head "Lithuania Is Free" five days after the Nazis had invaded the young Soviet Republic in June of 1941.

William J. Drake-Dragna is an American born lawyer, practicing in this city. He is regarded as a presentable candidate by the Republican Party, and until very recently has been appealing to Lithuanian voters on the basis of nationality without reference to the issues or his platform. In the past he has consorted with pro-

Nazi Lithuanians, who had been conducting his campaign.

Recently when rebuked by "Laisve," a Lithuanian daily published in Brooklyn, for his association with pro-Nazis and dissenters, and for his failure to announce his platform, Drake made public a statement in which he declared he would support President Roosevelt's War Program 100 per cent.

He had charged in a letter to the Lithuanian Daily that he had been unjustly accused of being associated with pro-Nazi Lithuanian elements and said that he disowns all Lithuanians who are pro-fascists.

Meanwhile, however, since making these statements, the Republican candidate for the United States Congress from the 9th District has failed to renounce his pro-Nazi associates. Consorting as he is with these anti-Roosevelt forces, it is improbable that Drake would support the President's War Program.