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Rossi Police Commissioner 'Front' for Fascist Schools

Andriano ^{DPW} Heads Drive For Funds

Claims Ignorance of Fascist Propaganda Fed Children

(Third in a Series) 10/26/38

By William Morgan

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 25.—Sylvester Andriano, San Francisco Police Commissioner appointed last Spring by Mayor Angelo J. Rossi, is the "cover" for Mussolini's fascist schools in California.

He is the "front man," behind which the Italian government teaches California born school children to "Believe, Obey, Fight" for Mussolini, and be disloyal to democracy and America.

It is Andriano who has charge of the collecting of funds from Italian-Americans so that the Dopo Scuolas can have an American face.

With Andriano in the "front," the Italian Consulate's propagandace, Giuseppe Parantini is able to operate freely in the background, openly directing the chain of "Scuolas," utilizing books furnished free of charge by the Italian government.

PARANTINI ADMITS

It was Parantini himself who revealed this to me when my questions to him about the school became too hot to handle.

Parantini is a tall, blond, wasp-waisted fellow of about 35. He wears a large fascist pin in which is mounted an expensive diamond—doubtless awarded for services rendered. He was nervous.

"Go and see Andriano," he said then I insisted on seeing a list of the teachers and the schools. He is the Director of Dopo Scuola. He answers all questions.

"Where can I find Andriano?" I asked. At the moment I could not believe it was Rossi's police commissioner.

"At the Italian Consulate—on the 7th floor at 550 Montgomery street."

He should have said "by" instead of "at" the Consulate. The doors are a few inches apart. I finally faced Andriano across a large desk in his spacious office.

NOT REGISTERED

"You are Sylvester Andriano the Police Commissioner appointed by Mayor Rossi not so long ago, aren't you?"

"Yes. What will you have?"

considered one. I help them raise money from time to time; head their financial drive. I gave them \$20 recently, and I persuade friends to give them money. I head a committee. The school is a good idea. I would defend it. All I know about it is that they teach the Italian language, and I consider that a worthy cause."

Was it possible that a responsible city official, a leader of the Italian-American colony, had not bothered to look into the books used in the schools for which he raised funds? If he did, it seemed unlikely that he could over-look that children are taught from those books that they "are the citizens and soldiers of tomorrow," whose mission is "to conquer other lands" for fascist Italy, to quote from one of them.

CLAIMS IGNORANCE

"I am of the opinion they teach more than the Italian language," I said.

"I would not know anything about that," he replied. "You see, I am not directly connected with the school."

If Andriano was telling the truth, he is certainly not acting in the role of a responsible public figure. If he was concealing something, the question arises, how much is he concealing? Such a man is in a powerful position to do good or evil in so far as Democracy is concerned. He is in a strategic spot from Mussolini's point of view.

"There is a list containing the locations of the schools and the names of the teachers. Professor Parantini refused to give me that list. Do you have it?"

"No."

"Will you help me to get that list? May I tell Parantini you said it was all right for me to have it? We might want to publish it?"

The Police Commissioner thought for a moment, and then assented.

But his agreement was not enough. Parantini, when told that he should turn the list over to me, refused. Apparently, Andriano is not an authority on Dopo Scuola. The list that will reveal if the teachers are registered as alien propaganda agents, and are therefore to be mistrusted by Americans, is not permitted to circulate among Americans.

"Are you registered as an agent of a foreign power with the State Department?"

"Good heavens no."

"I am told you are attorney of the Italian Consulate and the law specifically states that attorneys come under the provision of the law requiring registration of all agents of aliens and foreign governments."

"Well . . . I do attend to estates and transfers between America and Italy. I do not act for the Consul in any cases directly, only for individual Italians in the two countries. I'm here because I get the business. I have nothing to do with political issues."

HEADS FUND DRIVE

Mr. Andriano impresses one as being a very able man. Unkind critics of Rossi, call Mr. Andriano the Mayor of San Francisco.

"Are you a director of Dopo Scuola?"

"No, that is, I suppose I could be

Betrayed to Hitler



REFUGEES from the Czech-Sudeten areas, now occupied by German troops, find shelter on straw-filled mattresses in a school near the new Czech German frontier