

"Men," he exclaimed, "It's amazing, that's all I can say! It is simply astounding how you have read what was in my mind all this time!"

We felt somewhat giddy.

And so was the coat turned. What is more important for students at the University of California at Los Angeles, it stayed turned, for though in the end Winchester Ormiston found no third party to lead toward new personal triumphs, nevertheless (and we give the devil his full due) he had burned his bridges behind him already, and his newspaper attacks,

plus the loss of his leadership had by then annihilated the U. C. L. A. Americans. Winnie himself ended somewhere in the middle distance, unwanted by some, unloved by all—a demagogue without a *demos*. Perhaps the three of us who tricked him so may by some be condemned morally for having used means to accomplish our end, even though we believed that end to be the relegation to limbo of campus public enemy number one. To such a critic I will say only one thing:

Don't fret, for there'll be another Winnie Ormiston along at U. C. L. A. any time now. The woods are full of them.

NAZI PROPAGANDA IN CALIFORNIA

HERBERT RESNER

THE Friends of New Germany are no more. This organization, for the past several years the chief propagandistic agency of Nazi-ism in the United States, was disbanded in May of this year at its Buffalo convention on orders from German Ambassador Hans Luther, himself acting on instructions from Nazi party leaders at Berlin. But this does not mean that the activities of the Nazis have ceased in this country. Rather, they have become more "subtle." For the Friends were disbanded only in name, being reorganized under the title of *Amerika Deutscher Volksbund*.

No longer do the American Nazis engage in military drill outfitted in uniform regalia. This is now frowned upon by Nazi leaders as bad policy, because it invited criticism from progressive forces in America which the Nazis can not withstand at this time when they are trying to build up the Olympic Games. This fact, indeed, offers the clue to present Nazi activities in this country. The Nazis are attempting to minimize their persecution of political opponents, labor unions, and minority racial and religious groups. Instead, they proclaim the beauty and glory of the new Germany.

Through the medium of the *Amerika Deutscher Volksbund*, meetings are held in the various German houses, and moving pictures are shown of sports and travel in Germany. These pictures are distributed by the German Railroads Information Office whose chief western office is at 251 Post Street in San Francisco, and is presided over by one Kurt Beyer, a German national and member of the Nazi party. At the same time as the pictures are shown, lecturers describe the new spirit in Germany, the development of the youth movement, and the awakening of the German people.

One of the last German propagandists to visit California was a *Fraulein* Joust, who was in San Francisco in June as a delegate to the international Seventh Day Adventist convention. She took advantage of her position to give a lecture under the auspices of the *Deutscher Verein*, a German nationalist group sympathetic to Hitler. An extremely clever woman, she told about the German Welfare Society and Winter Relief in Germany. These organizations are supposed to give relief to needy Germans. *Fraulein* Joust failed to mention the fact that the funds for the Winter Relief are extorted from German farmers and small tradespeople by Nazi racketeers

who then fail to account for the money obtained, very little of which is actually used for relief.

Following the policy of "subtlety" several other Nazi agents have been active in California in recent weeks. Dr. Otto H. F. Vollbehr is reputedly a bibliophile and collector of incunabula.

He admitted to the Dickstein committee that he was a Nazi agent, but promised not to engage in further Nazi activities. This promise he has not kept. Several weeks ago he was in San Francisco, ostensibly on the business of selling books to Stanford and the University of California. Vollbehr, while now disclaiming that he is a Nazi, said, "Sixty one million German people voted Hitler for their Fuehrer. Are sixty one million people crazy?" He forgot to mention that the ballots carried space to vote only yes!

Concerning Hitler, Vollbehr said, "I met Adolph Hitler for the first time five years ago in a Munich restaurant. I have met kaisers and kings in the course of my world travels, but never have I met a man who even then, when he was a nobody, impressed me more deeply with his integrity and magnetic power."

Concerning the Jews, Vollbehr claimed that only 20 per cent had migrated from Germany. These left, he said, because they refused to abide by the laws of the land in which they lived and earned their bread. Vollbehr omitted any description of the discriminatory nature of these laws. Then Vollbehr came to the defense of the Fatherland. "I find it curious that far more violent demonstrations against the Jews in Poland, Rumania, and Austria evoke little criticism. Once more Germany is the goat."

Vollbehr gave away the real purpose of the Nazi state. "Hitler erected the barrier that prevented Bolshevism from sweeping over all Europe. Had it not been for him, Germany would have gone Bolshevist, and after her, France and England."

Vollbehr plans to make his home in Southern California, where he has gone to live for his health (?), and hopes to take out his citizenship papers in a year or two. As his remarks indicate, Vollbehr is still the active Nazi propagandist he says he is not.

Then there is Dr. K. Burchardi, prominent Southern California Nazi. Dr. Burchardi's forte is sterilization. Last Aug-

ust, the Los Angeles *Times* carried an article by the doctor on "Why Hitler Says: Sterilize the Unfit!" The danger of Marxism and communism in Germany, according to Burchardi, "was extremely imminent. Many of the leaders of these political faiths are living proof that genius, crime and mental disorder are often not so very far apart." The conclusion follows that the Hitler "scientific" sterilization program was devised to meet this problem, since the leaders of the radical political groups were criminals or diseased.

Burchardi quotes with approval the work of the Human Betterment Foundation of Pasadena, a sterilization organization headed by one E. S. Gosney, retired Arizona cattle king and banker, and having a research staff directed by Dr. Paul Popenoe. This organization has assumed the position of unofficial sterilization commission in California to administer the sterilization act of 1909. The organization recently sent out thousands of copies of a reprinted article by Popenoe on "The German Sterilization Law." With scarcely a word of qualification, Popenoe endorses the Nazi sterilization program and vindicates its administration. He quotes with approval from Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and accepts at face value the various Nazi pronouncements on the "impartial" and "scientific" administration of the act. The friendly appreciation of Hitler won instant recognition for the Human Betterment Foundation by Nazis in California and throughout the country.

Then there is the extremely important affair of Nazi Dr. Claus Mehnert. Dr. Mehnert is visiting lecturer from Germany at the summer session of the University of California at Berkeley. He has for a class and audience 200 visiting school-teachers. Mehnert's course was originally to be called "Fascism vs. Communism," but it was expediently changed to "Contemporary European Political Thought." On Germany, Mehnert uses *Mein Kampf*, and Chamberlain's "aryan" history of Europe. Thus the state University is party to an anti-Jewish and pro-fascist indoctrination of the state's schoolteachers. This is in line with the current Nazi policy of "educating" the American people to a sympathy with the new German state. But not a word of protest has yet been raised by the class or by the University's president or by District Attorney Cleary of Stanislaus County.

II

The Friends of New Germany, now the *Amerika Deutscher Volksbund*, has been the most active German agency in this country for the dissemination of Nazi propaganda. Although the present policy is to be very circumspect, propaganda of a very vicious nature, attacking Jews and political opponents, is still shipped into this country. Much of it comes through San Francisco on the Hamburg-American Lines. A recent importation is a handbill, printed in English in Hamburg, Germany, bearing the exhortation, "Help to kill the lie!" This handbill sets out figures purporting to show Jewish dominance in university teaching, practice of law and medicine, theatre film industry, stock exchange, trade and industry, politics and governmental positions. In other words, according to the Nazis, the Jews controlled Germany. And in spite of this, the Jews were going to stage a communist revolution! But Hitler saved Germany from both Jews and revolution.

The handbill goes on, "Anti-German propagandists like to depict Hitler as a brutal tyrant. How lenient his methods

are . . ." This deduced from the claim that Jewish civil servants were not dismissed point blank, but that those who served in the war were pensioned. This kind treatment did not prevent Jews from fleeing Germany. "These people fled from Germany because they attempted to set up a rule of fire and blood and to let loose the horrors of civil war and universal chaos." But "Germany succeeded in saving Europe from the danger of Bolshevism." All of these statements masquerade under the heading, "The Truth cannot be suppressed." And it might be pointed out that Vollbehr sounds pretty much like the content of this handbill.

There are native American fascist organizations and individuals engaging in much the same kind of propaganda. Recently bundles of propaganda have been sent to various individuals throughout California. Those bundles bear no return address, but a request is made thus, "ATTENTION. When this literature has served your purpose the editor suggests that you hand it to a friend. Assist a worthy cause! Your country is in danger! READ, THINK, THEN ACT!"

Contained in the bundle is a variety of printed material, attacking Jews, communists, liberals, new dealers, and capitalists. According to the fascist propagandists, they are all one! This is in line with the sort of statements broadcast by the National Socialists before their ascension to power in Germany. While promising social reform, the Nazis attacked the capitalists, communists and Jews. Not only the communists and Jews are the subjects of Nazi wrath. The lesson for America is obvious.

(This article will be continued next week when details will be given of the poison-propaganda distilled by the Nazis in California through William Dudley Pelley and other German agents and anti-Semitic groups and individuals.)

