

DW 8/3/44

# SPY DIES KNEW IS STILL AT LARGE

## Nazi Industrialist Reported on Convoys

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Although the Dies Committee has known for almost two years that Dr. Ferdinand A. Kertess collected information about British shipments and convoy movement for the Nazis he is still on the loose in New York, the latest issue of the anti-Nazi bulletin, *The Hour*, charges.

The record also shows that:

Kertess fronted for the I. G. Farbenindustrie, Nazi chemical trust.

He helped set up dummy front corporations for Nazi business in South America.

Helped to organize the American Fellowship Forum in which he associated with Dr. Friederich Auhagen and George Sylvester Viereck, Nazi-agents, and with Lawrence Dennis, self-styled American fascist theoretician.

Contacted Nazi emissaries, among them Heinrich Kriege.

### STILL THEIR FRONT

Kertess still fronts for the I. G. Farbenindustries, the Nazi chemical trust, from his office in the heart of New York, at 10 East 40th St., where he operates as president of the Chemical Marketing Company.

When not at his office, this Nazi front man can be found at his suburban residence on Scarsborough Road, in exclusive Briarcliff Manor, Westchester County.

James E. Edmonds, newspaperman, in October, 1940, told the Dies Committee about Kertess, with whom he had secured employment in the summer of 1939, for the purpose of gathering information.

perfect front, as he described it, for my visits to Dr. Gross."

There was no doubt where the information would go that Kertess wanted to buy.

"Both Dr. Gross and Dr. Kertess told me," Edmonds told the Dies committee, "that the information which I submitted to them went to the German Naval Attache in Washington, D. C., through the German Consulate in New York."

Kertess' also provided a cover for the I. G. Farbenindustrie in both North and South America, the exposure of *The Hour* indicates.

"Shortly before Nazi Germany declared war on the United States, I. G. Farben—whose directors play a leading role in shaping the policies of the Third Reich—transferred a number of patents in North and South America to Dr. Kertess' Chemical Marketing Company," the bulletin says.

In a confidential letter written to Nazi businessmen in Frankfurt on Main, Germany, on July 23, 1940, Kertess assured them that he had arranged for a "front name" for Nazi offices in South America. In this way they could get "American chemicals" for their customers during the war and return this business "to German interests at the close of the war."

In the six years from the time Hitler came to power until the war broke out in 1939, not one year passed without Kertess making a trip to Germany, *The Hour* reveals.

He came to the United States the first time in 1923 and remained here until 1927, when he returned to Germany. He took up permanent residence in the United States shortly before Hitler came to power and became a U. S. citizen in 1940.

Kertess represented in this period not only the Chemical Marketing Company (originally incorporated in 1935 as Frank von Kropp & Co.) but also the American Aniline Products Co., Inc., and the Deutsche Gold-und Silber-Scheidanstalt (German Gold and Silver Refining Institute of Frankfurt on Main, Germany).

When Edmonds got the job with Kertess there was no question in his mind that what Kertess wanted him for was espionage activities, even though he was paid for it under the name of "research."

### ADMITS SPYING

Dr. Kertess told Edmonds, the latter revealed to the Dies Committee that "since I had, as I told him, friends in French and British official offices in New York, that I could undoubtedly find out for his associates certain information in regard to convoy movements and shipping movements of British and French purchases in this country, and said that Dr. Gross would pay for such information.

"He said that he was sending me to Dr. Gross because Dr. Gross was an agent of the German government who was handling matters of that sort, and because since Dr. Gross was operating a new agency in New York it would serve as a