**AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE**

May 2, 1941

Dear Sirs:

A copy of your newspaper has been mailed to me and my attention called to an article in which you ask your readers to join the America First Committee. Let me say to you that not only does the America First Committee not solicit their membership, but that they are not eligible for membership. The America First Committee is against America's entry into the war not because it approves of the philosophy, the government, the aggression or the methods of Hitler's Germany, but because it wishes to protect this nation from involvement in Sumo wars. We do not want in our organization men who support the philosophy of Hitler's government because we believe them to be good Americans. The very first and one of the indispensable qualifications for membership in our organization, as stated in all our literature, is that it is not open to those who are members of the communist or fascist parties or the German bunds in this country or those representing any foreign power which desires to involve us in this war.

May I suggest that you give this letter the same publicity in your newspaper as you gave to the article to which I have referred.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

We print in full the above letter as per request of the writer thereof. We are American citizens of German origin, fighting only to be allowed the usual privilege of enjoying our rights as free men and women.

Because it is not the fault of the “America First Committee,” that a false, slanderous, un-American stigma has been put on the German American Bund, we have no desire to see the “America First Committee” suffer from the undeserved reflection cast on the Bund by the chosen minority, who denounce the “America First Committee” as a pro-Nazi agency with the same degree of injustice that the Bund has had to endure in the past.

Nevertheless, we shall continue our fight against those who persecute American citizens of German stock in order to create a war fervor.

Editor.

Reproduction of letter from New York Chapter; America First Committee, addressed to Editor of Bund paper. The letter was published in The Free American, with an "Editor's Note", also reproduced above. NRS can state with authority that the letter is mere camouflage and that cooperation continues between the America First Appeasers and the Bund.
their help is greatly appreciated. (2) Bruce Tarkington Dowden -- a notorious Fascist agitator recently convicted in the Los Angeles courts for assault and battery and disturbing the peace -- will place at the disposal of the parade committee his fleet of freight trucks. Dowden, it will be recalled, fronted for F. K. Ferenz and other Nazis in a successful campaign to force the Los Angeles School Board to oust a teacher for spreading "British propaganda". In truth, as was told in NRS #136, Sam Evans, the teacher in question, exposed the nefarious activities of Nazi Fifth Columnists in Southern California. (3) The National Legion of the Mothers of America promised to enter a float in the parade, carrying coffins bearing the slogan: "Our Bundles from Britain".

SATURDAY, MAY 24th: The most trusted members of the German-American Bund flocked this evening to the Los Angeles German House to welcome G. Wilhelm Kunze, successor to Fritz Kuhn as rational leader of the Bund. Kunze ordered his Stormtroopers to cooperate in every possible manner with the America First Committee and all other groups actively engaged in promulgating what is erroneously called "isolationism". He coached them, however, to keep secret the actual cooperation with such organizations, so as not to jeopardize the latter's standing in the eyes of other "good Americans".

Kunze's warning is of special significance because it reveals the true attitude of the Bund, which is not at all as stated in "The Free American", official publication on the Bund. On May 8th, that paper carried on its front page a letter (illustration on page 1) written by the New York Chapter of the America First Committee, which disavowed membership of Bund followers in its organization. The letter was written after the Bund paper had told its readers to join America First, causing the latter organization great embarrassment.

SUNDAY, MAY 25: An open forum program was broadcast in Los Angeles over radio station KFAC. Speaking in behalf of the appeasers was A. Dwight Nims, for the America First Committee. In opposition, Marshall Stimson spoke for The Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies. The auditorium of the radio station was jammed with Nazis, due to previous instructions to be at the studio well in advance of the program. Orders were issued that all seats be taken up, and that the America First point of view be copiously spewed out by the audience over the station's facilities. For quite some time now, the Nazis have followed this practice on many radio programs where audiences are given a chance to air their opinions.

"Save America First"....for Nazism

SUNDAY, MAY 25: Bundits went straight from the broadcast to attend the regular meeting of the "Save America First" organization, headed by T. W. Hughes, whose activities in favor of the Axis have been exposed by NRS, and whose meetings have been completely dominated by Nazis for months past. Barry, Jr. urged the younger element in the audience to affiliate itself with the Young People's Group of the America First Committee, and Hughes endorsed the Barry boy's recruiting speech.

MONDAY, MAY 26: City editors of Los Angeles newspapers received mimeographed letters asking them to publish a pro-Nazi article, carefully camouflaged with isolationist argument. The letter bore no name, but gave the sender's address as 2509 West Seventh Street, Los Angeles. This is the place of business of F. K. Ferenz, well known to NRS readers as the notorious exhibitor of Nazi propaganda pictures in Southern California. (The original letter is in the NRS files.)

Simultaneously, Angelenos of German origin received a mimeographed German letter bearing neither name nor address of the sender. Comparison of this and the English letter sent to the press shows clearly that the stencil for the latter was cut on the same typewriter, and that it was mimeographed on the same machine, proving conclusively that this, too, is Ferenz' brainchild.
missive urges its recipient to write or wire to his Congressman, to Cabinet Members, and to President Roosevelt, demanding that America be kept out of war. The text of this letter also appeared on the editorial page of the California Staats-Zeitung of May 23, 1941 (illustration on page 4).

**MONDAY, MAY 26:** At 8:00 P.M., a meeting of the America First Committee was held at Richter's Cafeteria, 325 West Third Street, attended by a plentiful number of Bundists, Coughlinites and others of the same ilk. Among these was Ellis O. Jones, founder of the National Copperhead Association (exposed in NRS #145). It was announced that Frank J. Barry, Sr. would address the meeting of the group scheduled for June 2nd. Barry père revealed his Nazi tendencies when he appeared on the same platform with Cathrine Curtis, at a rally held on April 2nd at the Los Angeles Philharmonic Auditorium. Miss Curtis is the national chairman of the National Legion of the Mothers of America, and her affiliations with Michael Ahearn and other high-powered Nazi propagandists who schemed to set up a Fascist form of government in the United States, were exposed in NRS #139.

Main speaker was Marshall Perrin, a man well thought of by the local Fifth Column, who demanded the impeachment of Secretaries Knox, Stimson and Hull, and proclaimed: "If a certain official does not change his views in a speech to be made very soon, we must demand his removal, too." He referred, of course, to the anticipated radio talk by the President.

When Perrin's speech was concluded, mimeographed copies of a recent article by Drew Pearson and Robert Allen, authors of the "Washington Merry-Go-Round" column, were distributed (illustration on page 5). The article points out the activities of the America First Committee in its anti-war drive. Although the original text was written to discredit the Nazi affiliations of the America First Committee, it was twisted by those behind the scenes to show what has been accomplished in the attack on the administration, thus spurring to harder work the corps of appeasement writers. When this fact was brought to the attention of the ace Washington correspondents, they stated to NRS:

*If the appeasement pack got any satisfaction out of our story, they are welcome to it. I fail to see how they would, but the ways of animals are inexplicable.*

**TUESDAY, MAY 27:** In the morning, Nazis assembled in Municipal Judge Oda Faulconer's court to witness the trial of Bruce Tarkington Dowden, a frequent speaker for America First, who, on April 21st, engaged in fisticuffs with Dennis L'Heureux, an elevator starter, in the lobby of a downtown Los Angeles office building.

During the course of the trial, it was revealed that Dowden started an argument with L'Heureux because he wore an "Aid to Greece" button. Dowden called him a "dirty Britisher", whereupon L'Heureux complimented him by calling Dowden a Nazi. Testimony also indicated that Dowden, on previous occasions, had given vent to his strong pro-Nazi leanings and maligncd the President in a manner worthy of Julius Streicher's *Stürmer*. The State brought charges of battery and disturbance of the peace against Dowden, and he was found guilty by a jury of twelve women. His attorney will make a motion for a new trial on June 11th.

Reproduced on page 4 is a picture of Dowden in fighting pose. Testifying for him as character witnesses were George A. Nusang and Larry Griffith, both well known Nazis. Nusang is a member of the American Honest Money Legion and sells Social Justice, Coughlin's Nazi sheet, at all subversive gatherings. Griffith is doing his bit to further the aims and objectives of "Save America First", the America First Committee, and all affiliated movements. Dowden had urged these and others to pack the court.

(Cont. on page 8)
Dear Mr. President:

An American mother asks you to look thoughtfully at the picture on this folder. This is in truth my son — built with my flesh and blood, nourished and cared for — physically and spiritually — through years of sacrifice and devotion.

This disclosure was made today to the House by Representative Frank B. Keefe, of Wisconsin, a member of the appropriations committee.

The sons are yours. The future is yours. Your conscience is yours. Mr. President, you cannot obligate my son to die on foreign battlefields right the wrongs of foreign peoples.

Humbly, yet fearlessly, we remind you, Sir, of your solemn pledge given on October 30, 1918:

"FATHERS AND MOTHERS, I GIVE YOU ONE MORE ASSURANCE. I HAVE SAID THIS BEFORE AND I SHALL SAY IT AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN. YOUR BOYS ARE NOT GOING TO BE SENT INTO ANY FOREIGN WARS."

I expect you to honor that pledge, Mr. President.

Name
Address

WE, THE MOTHERS, MOBILIZE FOR AMERICA, INC.

S. W. Van Buren Street.
Suite 305
Chicago, Illinois

Left: Portion of a news article, telling disclosure by Congressman Keefe of Wisconsin, spreading the word that England is seeking to take over U.S. markets.

Neither Congress nor the President has the right to blood for a dream of freedom everywhere in the world. Our Constitution was established "to secure the blessings of life to ourselves and posterity." In conscience, Mr. President, you cannot obligate my son to die on foreign battlefields right the wrongs of foreign peoples.

America First

Keep American Boys out of another picture like this! NO A. E. F.!

No convoys of war material to belligerents by American warships!

BUNDLES FROM BRITAIN

Keep American Boys out of another picture like this!

NO A. E. F.!

No convoys of war material to belligerents by American warships!
WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED IN OUR DRIVE ON WASHINGTON?

HERE'S THE ANSWER - FROM THE OPPOSITION

PEARSON AND ALLEN COLUMN - MAY 19, 1941

Referring to the group of women maintaining a perpetual vigil at the White House, Pearson and Allen go on to say:

"These women may not know it, but they are only a small cog in one of the most adept campaigns the capital has seen in years.

Origin of the campaign was a secret meeting of the inner command of the America First Committee, sparkplug of the entire isolationist movement. At this meeting America First leaders reported that Roosevelt was hesitating about convoys because of the uncertainty of public sentiment. So they decided the best way to keep him from acting was to pound him with a barrage of hostile demonstrations. Mass meetings, street rallies, picket lines, newspaper advertisements and especially the mails were to be mobilized for the attack.

To carry on the campaign large donations were solicited or volunteered, most of them from around Chicago. Opening gun of this drive was Lindbergh's speech in Madison Square Garden. Later came Herbert Hoover's anti-convoy broadcast. There will be more.

But the chief weapon decided upon was mail--aimed not at Congress, but directly at the White House. The isolationists wisely concluded that the question of convoys would not be decided by Congress, but by the President. So he became the chief target of their fire. The speeches, rallies, picket lines, etc., are producing results. The White House has said nothing about it, but the mail has jumped to huge proportions in recent weeks. Truck loads are dumped at the executive offices daily--most of the letters against convoys.

As a by-product a lot of this mail also has been going to Congress, and the services of various ladies have been enlisted to help answer it. The offices of Senators Wheeler, McGarren, Clark and Ewe are a beehive of busy workers.

Above: Mimeographed reprint of article by Pearson and Allen, distributed by America First Committee. Facts reported are twisted to appear as accomplishments by the Committee in its attack on Washington. Below: Portion of song sheet, of Communist and Nazi appeasers, spreading the lie that the Government will "plow under" every fourth American boy if war is declared.

SONG SHEET

PLow UNDER

(Words and music by The Almanacs)

Remember when the A.A.A. killed a million hogs a day? Instead of hogs, it's men today. Plow the fourth one under!

CHORUS:

Plow under! Plow under! Plow under every fourth American boy!

They said our agricultural system was about to fail. From Washington they sent a call: PLow THE FOURTH ONE UNDER!

The price of cotton wouldn't rise. They said, We've got to fertilize. So now on us they turn their eyes: PLow THE FOURTH ONE UNDER!

They said our system wouldn't work Unless they killed the surplus off. So now they look at us and say: PLow THE FOURTH ONE UNDER!

LAST CHORUS: Plow under (don't you) Plow under (don't you) Plow under every fourth American boy! (Repeat)

FOR WHAT?

Above, below: Front and back of handbill passed out at recent meeting of Nat'l Executive Committee of Mothers to Keep U.S. Out of War.
In the afternoon, a meeting was held at the Fifth Street Store, in downtown Los Angeles, by the National Executive Committee of the Mothers of America to Keep the United States Out of War. Main speaker was Dr. Albert W. Carlson, already well known to Los Angeles Hitler-haters through his appearance as a featured lecturer, on April 6th before the Hughes organization, and by his frequent appearances as speaker for the America First Committee. In his speech before the Mothers, he called President Roosevelt a traitor and cried out for the need of a new party. He deplored the fact that many Los Angeles store windows displayed British flags. This statement was quickly answered by shouts from the audience, urging: "Let's smash the windows!"

Petticoats On Parade

An important item of this meeting was the reading of a letter from Cathrine Curtis which reported that she had definite information that Rudolf Hess flew to England on a peace mission. According to Miss Curtis, Washington is doing its utmost to keep this information from the public. The Mothers' leader tied this in with the fact that while she was in Southern California, a consular representative had told her that peace negotiations between Germany and England were under way. In her letter she claims to have checked further on this when she returned to Washington, and that a Canadian government official admitted to her that peace conversations had started as far back as February. These plans are supposed to provide that England should do her utmost to involve America in war with Japan, while Germany and England would make peace and gobble up United States trade in South America and in other countries.

Obviously, advocates of a negotiated peace (on Hitler's terms) are extending themselves to corral big American export firms by spreading talk that Britain is trying to capture both our foreign and native markets. Typical is a statement made on the floor of the House on May 28th, by Congressman Frank B. Keefe of Wisconsin, who declared that he had found proof of Britain's motives. The Los Angeles Examiner of May 29th (illustration on page 4) gave this story from Washington a special build-up. Promptly the local Nazis used it as additional bait to get support from large business firms, and are using the article as further ammunition in their anti-Democracy campaign.

Another letter, this one from Senator Wheeler, was then read to the Mothers. It urged all to write to Senators and Congressmen in Washington, asking if they were for or against an immediate, negotiated peace. Wheeler stated that such queries would put the Representatives on the spot; i.e., if they were still against such a peace, it would prove them to be warmongers.

Literature was distributed to the audience. One pamphlet (illustration on page 5) released by the "Citizens Keep America Out of War Committee" of Chicago, features a picture of coffins over which American flags are draped. It is captioned: "Bundles from Britain -- Keep American Boys Out of Another Picture Like This". Mothers were asked to send this Nazi-inspired leaflet to the President with the signatures affixed.

Another handbill (illustration on page 4) distributed at the meeting was printed by the "We, The Mothers, Mobilize for America, Inc." of Chicago. This leaflet shows a young man tied to the mouth of a cannon, ready to be sacrificed to the gods of war. The caption reads, "For What?" The text states, in part:

An American mother asks you to look thoughtfully at the picture on this folder. This is in truth my son, built with my flesh and blood, nourished and cared for -- physically and spiritually -- through years of sacrifice and devotion.

In the afternoon, the National Legion of the Mothers of America, headed by Frances Sherrill, heard a talk given by Dr. Richard F. Carlyle, well known for his statement that a Nazified Europe cannot
affect America. Carlyle had appeared on May 12th before the Curtis group in Pasadena.

At this session, it was reported by one of the active members that G. Allison Phelps was removed from local radio station KMTR. The unanimous feeling was that "it is our duty to bring pressure to bear on the radio station officials to reinstate G. Allison". Phelps is known in Southern California as an accomplished rabble rouser who employs typical Nazi propaganda tactics in his harangues. Incidentally, with an eye to the future, Phelps revealed recently his ambitions to represent Southern Californians in Congress. This is a typical Nazi technique of restoring radio facilities to a discredited mouthpiece.

Cavalcade of Appeasers

TUESDAY, MAY 27: In the evening, the Young People's Group of the America First Committee met again. Present were such well known Bundists as the four Van Meter brothers, infamous as Stormtroopers, printers of literature and photographers for the Bund; James McBride, who recently began organizing a Los Angeles group whose job it would be to terrorize the population when "der Tag" arrives; Ellis O. Jones of the Copperheads; and many others identified with subversive groups. Plans were announced by William Dodson, secretary of the Los Angeles Branch of the America First Committee, to set up a propaganda division for the young people. Duties include the arrangement of parades, public street meetings, and motorcades. These caravans, consisting of automobiles bearing isolationist and appeasement slogans, are to be used mainly in outlying Los Angeles districts. If, for example, an America First meeting is held in Pasadena, followers from nearby cities are expected to drive to Pasadena in unending cavalcades. The underlying motive is to make it appear that America First has a much greater following than is actually the case. This recalls the days of the Ku Klux Klan, when a single lodge was sent on tour through the country, to inject itself into locality after locality in order to create the impression of nation-wide Klan strength.

Songs were chanted by those present, among them "Plow Under". This song originated with the Communists. (Two days later, when the American Peace Mobilization held a "Peace Rally", it was also sung. Attendants were given a mimeographed song sheet, containing the text as reproduced on page 5.)

The meeting of the Young People's Group ended with a discussion of the President's fireside talk. Statements were voiced that "we will carry on with the program of America First until they close us up by the use of force".

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28th: Senator Wheeler's statement in Indianapolis concerning the President's speech was immediately adopted as their own by his Southern California followers. He said: "The President talks about fear. He himself has preached the hymn of hate and fear more than anyone in the United States, ever since March 4, 1933."

What the isolationists failed to acknowledge was that they themselves use the element of fear to gain their own ends, as is evident in the two handbills distributed at the Fifth Street Store meeting.

THURSDAY, MAY 29th: In the afternoon, the Women's Activities Group of the America First Committee met at headquarters. Among those present were Mrs. Blanche Duquette (alias Mrs. Day) who is a sales agent for Coughlin's Social Justice; and Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Pilzer, who were among the founders of the Friends of New Germany. Chairman of the meeting was Mrs. J. Henry Orme, a co-worker of Mrs. Faith McCullough. The latter is known as Mrs. Leslie Fry's former secretary. Her Nazi activities, and Mrs. Fry's direct connection with the German Propaganda Ministry, were exposed in NRS #35.

Featured speakers were Mrs. Sherrill, leader of the National Legion of the Mothers of America, and Dr. Carlyle. In her speech, Mrs. Sherrill concentrat-
ed on stimulating fear among her listeners, stating that soon all women will be mobilized for war. She reported that flag manufacturers in the East have stopped making American flags and are now making "Union Now" banners.

Dr. Carlyle did his share to instill more fear by proclaiming that "all of us, who dare to oppose the President, will find ourselves in concentration camps". He pleaded for unification of all movements which "work along the same lines as we do". Carlyle's attitude can best be described by quoting him verbatim:

If we enter the war, those responsible will answer for it. They will not answer to the Justice of the Supreme Court, but to a self-appointed tribunal of the people, and proper punishment will be meted out to them. You may be sure of that.

THURSDAY, MAY 29th: In the evening, the regular America First Committee meeting was held at the headquarters. Dodson, presiding, called President Roosevelt's speech "un-American", and accused him of lying to the people. Dr. Carroll Sibley, who stated that he holds a commission in the Reserve, demanded that the people of America be given a chance to vote whether or not America should declare war. It was announced that Senator Wheeler and Charles A. Lindbergh would soon be in Los Angeles and would probably speak at the Coliseum.

Among those present were such well known Bundits as the James McBride family, the Van Meter brothers, and the Pilzers. Also there were Ferenz and his associate, Miss Grotan; William P. Williams, a Los Angeles high school teacher who preaches subversivism to his pupils; Roy Chase, a Bund sympathizer who is responsible for many threatening letters to people who dared voice criticism of National Socialism; Jones, founder of the Copperheads; Nellie McCray, Coughlin follower and rabble rouser. The meeting closed with a recording of a recent speech by Lindbergh.

THURSDAY, MAY 29th: The American Peace Mobilization, now the most active Communist front, held a mass meeting at the Embassy Auditorium, which is where the Hughes "Save America First" group meets. Details of the American Peace Mobilization's activities will be given in an early issue of NEWS LETTER.

The foregoing day-by-day report of cooperation between recognized Nazis, Hitler apologists, appeasers, and so-called "isolationists", speaks for itself. However, the best demonstration of the political tendency of the followers of these groups can be obtained by personal observation at their meetings.

The cat-calls and boos from the audience when names like Roosevelt, Hull, Churchill or Eden are mentioned; the tremendous applause accorded statements endorsing a "New Europe"; the cheers when orators tell their listeners that "what is going on in Europe does not affect us" -- all will convince anyone that he is surrounded by people, most of whom would turn Quisling at the opportune time. The oft-voiced statement that "soon we will not be permitted to assemble in this manner and speak our minds" indicates that they realize that their activities border on treason.

This expose of the Los Angeles Fifth Column in action could be duplicated in every important city in the country. It is published in the hope that the schemes of the local Quislings in every community will be similarly exposed, to clear public gaze. Only then will local apathy be aroused to effective counter efforts against internal dissension and disunity.