

Wide and Deep

Jury Reveals Scope of Plot To Undermine Army's Morale

By Dillard Stokes
Post Staff Writer

7/24/42

The shocking story of a far-flung plot, to foment mutiny and disloyalty, insubordination and refusal of duty in the Army and the Navy was unmasked yesterday—with the opening of the secret indictment returned in the District Court Tuesday.

The special grand jury on Axis agents accused 28 persons, and "others unknown" who were in concert with them, of a cold and studied conspiracy—which started long before Pearl Harbor and kept in motion until this week.

"We must and will stamp out this sort of activity," said Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge. "The Department of Justice pledged its best efforts to vigorous prosecution."

The indictment came after months of investigation by Special Prosecutors William Power Maloney and John T. W. Reddan. The document was impounded so that United States marshals could hunt down the defendants, who were scattered from New York to San Diego.

As arrests were made and warrants issued made them public night before last, the tally of the alleged conspirators sounded like a roll call of the country's top-flight pro-Nazis, antiwar agitators and inciters of racial, religious and political hatred.

There was William Dudley Pelley, the Silver Shirts who hoped to ape Hitler. He is due to go on

Indictment Shows Scope of Plot to Wreck U. S.

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trial in Indianapolis next Tuesday for sedition and another conspiracy.

There was Pelly's lawyer, H. Victor Bronestrupp, who called himself the Duke of St. Saba, Lieut. Gen. Cherup Spiridovich and other allies. This man coordinated the policies of some of the defeatist papers which the indictment said were the tools of the Nazi network that plotted against the armed forces.

There were George Sylvester Viereck, the German agent now under a 2 to 6-year prison sentence for violating the Foreign Agents Act, and his Washington henchman, Prescott F. Dennett, who was immediately placed in military arrest. He entered the Army a few weeks ago.

There was Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling, the firing pin of disorderly isolationist demonstrations at the Capitol—she was fined for one of them last summer—who used the alias "the Rev. Frank Woodruff Johnson" for her slanderous book, "The Octopus."

Roosevelt Defamer Included

And there was Charles B. Hudson, the Omaha (Nebr.) defamer of President Roosevelt, who mailed out isolationist speeches by the ton, postage free under Congressional frank to the mailing list of his weekly bulletin, "America in Danger! His slogan was "End the War Quickly!" Not justly, or honorably. Just quickly.

There was Ralph Townsend, the self-confessed Japanese agent, one of the staff of Scribner's Commentator, who is under an eight-to-24-month sentence for violating the Foreign Agents Act.

There was William Kullgren, who said in his Bearcor-Eight that he read "in the stars" the violent death of President Roosevelt. For Hitler, Kullgren saw success and he heralded it to the credulous and the unstable who might be reached by

Accused of Sedition in Special Grand Jury Indictment



C. LEON DE ARYAN

PRESCOTT DENNETT

COURT ASHER

DAVID BAXTER

GEORGE VIERECK

ELIZABETH DILLING

E. J. GARNER

CHARLES B. HUDSON



ELLIS O. JONES

ROBERT LYMAN

ROBERT NOBLE

WILLIAM D. PELLEY

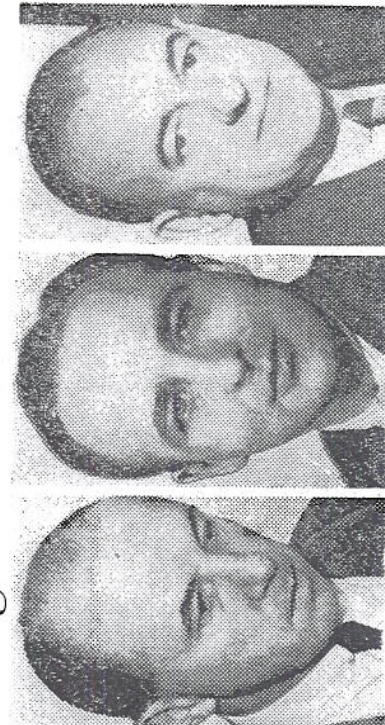
H. MAX SCHWINN

GERALD B. WINROD

JAMES TRUE

RALPH TOWNSEND

Agents Case Prosecutors



WILLIAM F. MALONEY

JOHN T. M. REDDAN

WENDELL BERGE

his "astrology" magazine.

There was Herman Max Schwinn, the bund organizer; and Hans Diebel, the bund bookseller, whose shop in the Deutsches Haus in Los Angeles was advertised on the first page of Welt Dienst, the Nazi propaganda sheet issued at Erfurt, Germany.

There were others . . . 18 more: Gerald B. Winrod, the Hitler-heiling editor of the Defender at Wichita, Kans. He once ran for the Senate.

William Griffin, editor of the New York Enquirer.

Elmer J. Garner, 78, and his son, James F. Garner. They ran the paper, Publicity, in Wichita.

David Baxter, chancellor of the revolutionist Sociis.

Hudson de Piest, who wrote for Winrod and the Garners.

Court Asher of Muncie, Ind., who ran The X-Ray.

Constantin Leon de Arvan of the San Diego (Calif.) Broom. He is a candidate for Congress.

Col. Eugene Nelson Sanctuary, head of the Fascist American Christian Defenders in New York.

Robert Edward Edmondson, famed among his ilk for a chart intended to impugn President Roosevelt.

William Robert Lyman, who circulated this chart, as well as Nelson's works defending the Axis and blaming the war on Hitler's enemies.

Ellis O. Jones and Robert Noble of the Copperheads, both under prison sentence for another seditious conspiracy.

James C. True and Oscar Brumback, Washington agitators.

Donald McDaniels, a Chicago dentist who designed antiwar cartoons, and Otto Brennermann, an artist who produced them.

And Edward James Smythe, a writer for the Garners' paper, Publicity.

Labeled 'Hatriots'

"Hatriots," Maloney called them in court yesterday.

Hatred was the stock in trade of the publications condemned in the indictment. Along with doubt and disunity, defeat and dissension. These themes, the grand jury charged, were placed in the publications that were the tools of the conspiracy "and in the Congressional Record," and they were "designed and intended to impede, obstruct and defeat the preparation of our national defenses against aggression and invasion."

Tune by Goebbels

Here are some of the themes of sedition that were quoted in the indictment:

The war . . . is a dishonest war . . . to insure the continuance of world domination by International Jewry-Organized Finance, British-American Capitalists . . .

The people of the United States are being forced . . . to finance a war against nations and people who are friendly . . .

Germany and Italy have committed no aggressive act against any nation . . .

The Japanese war in China is morally right and just . . .

The cause of the Axis powers is the cause of justice and morality.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was instigated by Great Britain.

The war with Japan was provoked deliberately by officials of the United States.

The public officials of the United States are Judas-like betrayers of their country.

These doctrines, the grand jury charged, were broadcast by the 28 alleged conspirators and their hidden confederates with the deliberate purpose of corrupting the armed forces and demolishing the faith of the American people in their leaders.

For this, if they are found guilty, the alleged conspirators will face a total fine of \$20,000 or 10 to 30 years in prison, or both.

Instances Cited

The grand jurors, in the indictment, quoted specific passages and charged that it was the deliberate purpose of the conspiracy to give them circulation. Here are some of them:

Roosevelt should be impeached. (From Hudson's America in Danger.)

Do not neglect your arsenals. Buy arms and keep them in a place where they are readily accessible . . . (Baxter's Soci Bulletin).

Ever since the President had his conference with Churchill on the high seas, we have been hearing from editorial writers, radio commentators and New Deal spokesmen of the United Nations.

Now comes a member of the President's Cabinet, Ickes, a member of the United States Supreme Court, Roberts; both of whom have sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution, and add their endorsement to the Judas-like betrayal of our people into and as one of a United States of the World. (From the "Roosevelt Is a Judas" speech of Representative Clare E. Hoffman, which was reprinted in part in *The X-Ray*. Hoffman had 145,000 copies of this speech produced at the Government Printing Office and thousands of these copies were sent out by Hudson Winrod, Baxter, the American Coalition, the American Mothers, the Mothers of American Sons, the United Mothers of America and others).

And yet these men, like Judas, who betrayed his Master, would, before we are fairly in this war, betray our people, surrender our independence, connive to destroy our liberty and our freedom. They would surrender that for which the war is being fought—our national existence—before the war is fairly begun. (From Hoffman's "Roosevelt is a Judas" speech.)

Yes, of course, millions of Americans hate Hitler, but the amazing thing is that probably many millions more have seen through this hate hysteria and greatly admire the fine work he is doing for his people. (From *Publicity*.)

Says death awaits United States boys in Africa. (William Griffin.)

At the height of his career the occupant of the White House will pass on to his reward. A man-of-the-hour will arise. (Kullgren's *Beacon Light*.)

The indictment quoted 50 such utterances.

Statements like these were the ammunition, the indictment charged, with which the alleged conspirators loaded the pages of 30 books, papers and magazines in order to carry out their design of weakening the United States.

America Firsters Listed

The indictment further charged that the alleged conspirators set up committees and organizations to accomplish this object. The indictment listed the America First Committee, Baxter's Social Republic Society, and Representative Hamilton Fish's National Committee to Keep America Out of Foreign Wars, and 25 other such groups.

These, and other groups, the grand jury charged, were organized by the alleged conspirators, or caused to be organized by them, and were given financial and other aid.

There were nine overt acts charged in furtherance of the pre-Pearl Harbor conspiracy. Two of these were conferences in Washington between Viereck and Dennett. A third was the mailing by the defendant, De Aryan, of two copies of *The Broom*, to Adam Quigley, at a postoffice box. The other six were mailings of sundry printed matter to Jefferson Breem of Washington.

All these mailings occurred after the war began, and were cited in the indictment as the seven overt acts in support of the war-time phase of the conspiracy.

"Jefferson Breem" and "Adam Quigley" were names used by the writer (Dillard Stokes) in getting material for articles about the vermin press.

Mrs. Dilling Denies Guilt

Chicago, July 23 (AP).—Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling pleaded not guilty today to an indictment charging conspiracy returned in Washington.

Two other defendants, George Otto Brennermann and Dr. Donald Judson McDaniel of Chicago, were

released from jail on bond of \$4000 each.

De Aryan on Hunger Strike

San Diego, Calif., July 23 (AP).—A hunger strike was started today in the county jail by C. Leon de Aryan, indicted in Washington, D. C., on a conspiracy charge.

De Aryan said he had not eaten since his arrest last night, and would not accept food until he was released from jail on bail, which he personally could not provide, or through Government action.

Bundist Ottersbach Pleads Not Guilty

New York, July 23 (AP).—William Ottersbach, 56-year-old German-American bund leader, of Seattle, Wash., pleaded not guilty today to two Federal indictments alleging conspiracy to violate the Selective Service Act and the Alien Registration Act.

He was held in bail of \$10,000 by Federal Judge Francis G. Caffey for trial July 28.

Ottersbach, who was the unit leader in Seattle in 1940, was one of 29 persons named in indictments filed in New York Federal Court several weeks ago.

He was born in Germany and came here about 10 years ago. He was naturalized in 1938. He attended the North Pacific Sangerbund, which included representatives from bund units in Spokane, Portland, Oreg., and Seattle.

Ottersbach said that he was unable to employ counsel and requested the court to assign an attorney to defend him.