

Nixon Appears a Little Soft on Nazis

By Jack Anderson

President Nixon, who made his name in politics by attacking the Democrats for being "soft on Communists," is showing signs himself of a little softness on Nazis.

We recently reported that he invited an ex-Nazi to the White House for a prayer session and that he sent a letter of tribute to a notorious anti-Jewish editor.

The White House issued a pained public statement protesting that "President Nixon has never condoned and does not condone anti-Semitism in any form." We certainly agree. Mr. Nixon is no more anti-Semitic nor pro-Nazi than Harry Truman and Dean Acheson were pro-Communist.

But men with histories of Nazi sympathies have managed to endear themselves to the Nixon administration. Here's the record, which is worse than we originally reported:

• We identified Dr. Joseph Paucó, a prominent GOP adviser and White House guest, as a pro-Nazi propagandist in Slovakia during World War II. We cited recent public statements to show that he still worships the memory of the Nazi puppet in Slovakia, Joseph Tiso. The Anti-Defamation League confirmed our charges with additional evidence from their files. The Republican National Committee quickly accepted Paucó's resignation. Yet at this writing, five weeks after our revelations, he

is still an official, unsalaried adviser to Small Business Administrator Tom Kleppe. Paucó makes recommendations on small business loans and other SBA matters in his home state of Pennsylvania.

• We reported that both President Nixon and Vice President Agnew sent warm tributes to Geno Szebedinsky, editor of the Hungarian-language newspaper Magyarsag, which foams with anti-Semitism. Although the President wrote Szebedinsky that his distinguished career is well known to me, "we are convinced Nixon had absolutely no knowledge of the editor's anti-Semitic reputation. Both Nixon and Agnew signed the tributes purely as political routine. Yet someone familiar with Szebedinsky and his views was close enough to the White House to arrange for him to be honored. And the White House, despite its public assurance that the President doesn't condone anti-Semitism, has yet to repudiate his letter to Szebedinsky.

• President Nixon not only prayed with Paucó at the White House but also invited another World War II extremist, Ivan Docheff, to the White House. Docheff acknowledged to us that he was the leader of the National Legion in his native Bulgaria. This was a youth organization characterized as "fascist" by the moderate Bulgarian National Committee here. Docheff admitted it was a right-wing group but

said he was "100 per cent anti-Communist, not a Nazi." Docheff's picture at the White House with Nixon and Agnew, printed in the Bulgarian-language paper Borba, raised cries of outrage from moderate Bulgarian-Americans.

• Laszlo Pasztor, the industrious head of the GOP ethnic groups, was never asked about his wartime activities in Hungary by the four GOP officials who interviewed him for his job. As it happens, Pasztor belonged to a Hitler-youth-style group under the notorious Arrowcross party until he was 21. Although he never joined the adult party, he served it as a junior diplomat in Berlin under the vicious anti-Semitic Szalasi regime. Pasztor insists he never took part in anti-Semitic activities and says in his GOP Party post, he has tried to weed out the right-wing extremists from the Republican ethnic groups. He spoke feelingly of these problems for two hours with my associate Les Whitten. At one point, Pasztor asked wearily: "What kind of guys did I inherit?"

Headlines, Footnotes

Peace Corps Woes — The Peace Corps' hopeful effort to enlist Mexican-American volunteers has largely failed. Of 13 Mexican-Americans trained for service in Peru, eight have quit. They had been sent to Peru to help

build potato production, but a bumper crop made their work superfluous. Peace Corps efforts to keep them in other programs failed, and the eight disillusioned Chicanos have now left the Peace Corps. Elsewhere in Peru, volunteers were able to thwart reported efforts by Director Joe Blatchford to install an old fraternity brother, Doug Burck, as country director. A compromise by Blatchford has forestalled resignation threats of about 100 of the 200 volunteers in Peru. Less than a half-dozen have actually quit because of the squabble.

Giant Killer—Back in April 1970 we wrote of the David-and-Goliath struggle between Federal Trade Commission lawyer Daniel Kane and the gigantic Koppers Co. Kane had accused Koppers of killing competition in resorcinol, a chemical used in tires, explosives and dyes. While Kane fought the case, his FTC boss, then Rufus (Duke) Wilson, had been meeting privately with Koppers' attorney and discussing the case. Wilson has now retired from the FTC, and Kane recently won a tough consent settlement from Koppers. In it, the firm promises to void its "exclusive" resorcinol supply contracts, and contracts running more than a year, give up any plans to buy out resorcinol competitors without an FTC okay and block price discriminating.

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