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ROCKWELL SPRAWLED IN PARKING LOT

PATLER AT NAZI MEETING

Even "Halfpenny Hitler" sounded overpriced.

dren are proud of themselves and proud of Watts. Raising three fingers in their own salute, they chant a rousing, bluesy marching song:

Everywhere we go-O, People wanta know-O,
Where do we come from? So we tell 'em:
We're from Watts, you know,
Mighty, Mighty Watts!

RADICALS

Finis for the Führer

George Lincoln Rockwell was a failure at just about everything he tried. Like his idol Adolf Schicklgruber, he was an unsuccessful painter. He went bust in the advertising business and broke as a traveling salesman, and was a dropout as publisher of a woman's magazine. Both his marriages failed. And in politics his risible handful of strutting, beswastikaed American Nazi Party bullyboys, agape at their Führer's harangues of hate, made even the sneering epithet "Halfpenny Hitler" sound overpriced.

Jews above all he detested. It was Communist Jewry, Rockwell prated, that spurred the Negro, his other bugaboo, to "mongrelize" the white race. In a letter to Magazine Editor Ralph Ginzburg, he even insisted that it was the "Hebes in Moscow" who provoked the Arab-Israeli war in order to give Israel more territory, including "that glorified gentlemen's *pissoir*, the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem." In the fantasies of Rockwell's chimerical world, he envisioned shipping 20 million American Negroes to Africa and gassing Jews after a grateful nation elected him President in 1972. After the depression that Rockwell predicted for 1969, the U.S. would clamor for "a white leader with the guts of a Malcolm X."

The Commander. Rockwell came upon his tortured creed by accident. Born in 1918, the son of a vaudeville comedian, he dropped out of Brown University in 1940 to become a Navy pilot because, as he later said, he believed "all that hooey about Hitler." Recalled during the Korean War with the rank of commander, he got his first glimpse of racist literature from a Navy couple in San Diego. At first he skimmed, then read deeply. Soon he had graduated to a secondhand edition of *Mein Kampf*. "I was hypnotized, transfixed," said Rockwell. "Within a year I was an all-out Nazi."

In 1958, he founded a Nazi Party of his own with a membership estimated now at between 20 and a few hundred, and moved into a sprawling, ramshackle house in Arlington, Va. Driblets of cash perpetuated the party's existence, and Rockwell's storm troopers were soon garnering headlines in ugly street brawls and riots. With almost no cash left, Rockwell last January renamed his group the National Socialist White People's Party to woo extreme racists.

Unbleached White. Some thought Rockwell better dead, and several made the attempt. "Stand next to me," he was fond of quoting. "I'm bulletproof." But as he backed his Chevrolet away from Arlington's Econ-o-wash laundry last week, two bullets fired by a rooftop sniper drilled the windshield. Sprinkled with soap flakes, the dying Nazi staggered from his car. His meager wash was inside the laundry, and his last words were to a 60-year-old grandmother. Said white supremacy's champion: "I forgot my bleach."

Police later charged John Patler, 29, with murder. He had often stood next to Rockwell as the Nazis' "Minister of Propaganda" and even changed his name from Patsalos to make it sound more Germanic. Rockwell had fired him some months back—but not before heaping unstinted praise on his accused assassin. In the latest issue of *The Stormtrooper Magazine*, which Patler had edited, Rockwell lauded the "dedicated work he has been doing for our people and our cause these many years."

THE SENATE

Purse-String Answer

The hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee were something less than the constitutional debate they set out to be. Mired from the outset in moot legalistic questions, the sessions became instead an outlet for the unease and bitterness with which most committee members—liberals and conservatives alike—view Lyndon Johnson's management of the war.

The nominal issue was a constitutional question as delicate as any in the federal system of checks and balances: What power does Congress have to influence or change the President's conduct of a war? Committee Chairman William Fulbright evangelized for a resolution suggesting that Congress should have greater control over foreign policy. Implicit in the resolution was Fulbright's disapproval of the war and his wishful belief that Congress could do something to end it.

Blank Check. Constitutionally, Congress can only begin a conflict by a declaration of war, and then sustain it by voting whatever appropriations the President requests to carry on the fighting. The U.S., of course, has not declared war in Viet Nam. Nonetheless, in 1964 Congress did pass, with only two dissenting votes, the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, affirming its readiness "to approve and support the determination of the President, as Commander in Chief, to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression."

Fulbright himself sponsored the Tonkin resolution, a fact he now loudly regrets, claiming that the President has taken the measure as a blank check to wage unlimited war without any further consultation with Congress. For his part, President Johnson argued at his last press conference that Congress could vote to rescind the Tonkin resolution—but that also was legalistic legerdemain, since the President insisted at the same time that he had had no constitutional need for the Tonkin resolution in the first place.

Even Fulbright does not believe that the Tonkin resolution should be rescinded. "I don't advocate its being brought up," he said. "An overwhelming defeat of such a move would be interpreted as an affirmation." Still, Illinois' Charles Percy, as a voluntary witness before the committee, suggested that the President should annually "itemize for the Congress our national commitments as he sees them, detailing the nature of each commitment, its limitations, and the justification for it in terms of national interest." In fact—if informally—Johnson has consulted more closely with Congress on foreign policy than has any of his predecessors in this century.

Largest Ever. Testifying for a second week as the Administration's advocate, Under Secretary of State Nicholas Katzenbach repeated that the