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# THE PROPAGANDA BATTLEFRONT

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As the New Year gets off to a flying start with the indictment of 30 persons on charges of campaigning to set up a Nazi regime in the United States, it is well to pause for a moment to see how much progress has been made in the battle for the mind of America.

There have been big strides forward during the last year, and there have been setbacks. The government has rounded up a long list of foreign agents, of native fascists who collaborated with the enemy. It has indicted a number for treason; it has denaturalized Axis-born Americans who gave aid and comfort to the enemy. On the debit side is the rapidly-growing "Nationalist" movement which includes Gerald L. K. Smith's America First Party, the Republican Nationalist Revival Committee, and the "MacArthur cult."

A quick glance at the following gains and losses on the propaganda front would lead us to believe that 1943 was an overwhelmingly victorious year. That is not true. Listings like these cannot show the large group of pro-fascist editors and leaders who, unmolested, carry on business as usual. One small item listed under "losses"—the demise of the domestic branch of the OWI—is a major defeat which counteracts many of the gains we have made.

The tremendous sale of "Under Cover," John Roy Carlson's book exposing American fascists, is a major victory in the propaganda war; so is the publication in a fifty cent edition of Albert Kahn's and Michael Sayers' "Sabotage" and the release of "See What I Mean" by Lewis Browne. But it is discouraging to see that the United States, officially, refuses to recognize that propaganda is a major weapon in Hitler's war. This means that the propaganda front will have to be held against the Nazi assault by private citizens—by organizations like Friends of Democracy and authors like Carlson and Browne.

Our gains have been primarily negative, that is, they consist of arresting Nazi propagandists. Our principal loss is unlisted, for it consists of our failure to launch a powerful, positive propaganda drive extolling the virtues of democratic civilization.

## GAINS — 1943

JAN. 4—Announcement that Spanish Library of Information closed its New York offices.

JAN. 4—Washington Grand Jury returns indictments charging 33 persons with sedition. 28 of this group indicted in July, 1942; the five new names in the indictment are George Deatherage, Lois de Lafayette Washburn, Frank W. Clark, Leslie Fry, and F. K. Ferenz.

JAN. 13—Arrests of Askew Thomas, Alfred Woods, Isaiah Cald, Robert Moses, Oscar Rumlin, Dawsey Johnson, and Jeremiah Ardis announced. These seven are alleged to have been inciting Negroes not to fight their "colored brothers," the Japanese.

JAN. 13—Justice Department announces arrest of Edward Page Gaston, leader of Patriot Guard of America, on charges of illegally wearing the uniform of an Army captain.

JAN. 14—Five leaders of the Ethiopian Pacific Movement, Inc. Robert Jordan, James Henry Thornhill, Lester Eugene Holness, Joseph Hartery, and Ralph Green Rest, receive prison sentences ranging from four to ten years for conspiracy to commit sedition.

JAN. 14—Elmer W. Hartzel and Elmer W. Soller convicted of sedition in Federal Court in Chicago.

JAN. 16—Horace Joseph Haase, who refused induction into the army because, he says, the U. S. is fighting on the wrong side, surrenders to Federal authorities.

FEB. 13—Gottfried Karl Hein, California Bund leader, sentenced to five years in prison for draft evasion.

FEB. 15—William Dudley Pelley fails to obtain Supreme Court review of his conviction for criminal sedition.

FEB. 27—F.B.I. announces arrest of seven German aliens in New York City and confiscation of half a ton of Nazi propaganda.

MARCH 2—Papers announce John Eoghan Kelly's indictment as an unregistered agent of Franco Spain.

MARCH 13—Citizenship of Fritz Kuhn and ten other members of the German American Bund revoked by Judge John Bright of the United States District Court.

MARCH 13—F.B.I. announces arrest of fifteen leaders of the National Socialist War Victims Benevolent Association.

MARCH 22—The citizenship of Hubert Schmuedderich, leader of the Grey Shirts, revoked.

MARCH 23—George Sylvester Viereck re-indicted on six counts charging that he had not reported all of his activities as a Nazi agent to the State Department.

APRIL 6—Joint Commission for Political Refugees in North Africa announces that arrangements have been made to free most of the political prisoners interned by the Vichy Government.

APRIL 6—Wilhelm Grote, a Bronx machinist, found guilty of acting as a German espionage agent. He assisted Carl Reuper, convicted Nazi spy, who was sentenced with 32 other Nazi agents in Jan. 1942.

APRIL 7—Post-War Policy Council of Indiana Republicans calls for full American cooperation with the other nations of the world to organize and maintain the peace won in the present war.

APRIL 25—Federal authorities hold up distribution of the "Catholic International," a magazine which says, in effect, that the United Nations are fully as guilty of bringing on the war as the Axis.

APRIL 29—Papers announced that U. S. Army has ordered excluded more than 25 native-born American citizens from the Eastern Defense Command area as being "dangerous to internal security."

MAY 3—F.B.I. arrests Dr. Franz Ernst Paul Fiedler, German veteran of the first World War, on charges of violating the wartime sedition statute.

MAY 10—"Philadelphia Record" wins new trial in the libel suit of John O'Donnell, head of the Washington Bureau of the "N. Y. Daily News," to whom a \$50,000 verdict was awarded in November, 1942.

MAY 10—Eleanor (Cissie) Patterson, publisher of the "Washington Times Herald," drops her \$250,000 libel suit against Walter Winchell.

MAY 11—Ten members of Mankind United await prison sentences and two others to pay \$1000 fines on conviction of sedition.

MAY 15—Hermann Gibalowski and Erich Gebhardt, naturalized American citizens associated with the German Labor Front, have their citizenship nullified and



are ordered detained as enemy aliens for the duration of the war.

MAY 20—James L. Drew, Brooklyn patrolman, suspended from the police force without pay for alleged seditious leanings.

MAY 22—Moscow announces the dissolution of the Communist International.

MAY 25—Domenico Trombetta, former editor of "Il Grido della Stirpe" and interned as an enemy alien, was under indictment for failure to register as an agent of the Italian government.

MAY 29.—John Eoghan Kelly found guilty of failure to register as an agent of Franco Spain.

JUNE 15—General Lee Butler and David D. Erwin, leaders of the Japanese-sponsored Pacific Movement of the Eastern World, sentenced to four years and two years respectively in Federal prison for conspiracy to violate the war-time sedition act and the Selective Service law. The Pacific movement fined \$1,000.

JUNE 16—Eight members of the German American Bund, denaturalized because of their Bund activities, are arrested by F.B.I. and taken to Ellis Island pending a hearing before the enemy alien board.

JUNE 18—Fritz Kuhn, former national leader of the German American Bund, paroled from prison and held on Federal detainer as an enemy alien.

JUNE 22—Vincenzo Rossini, former head of the National United Italian Association and social and labor editor of "Il Corriere d' America," faces denaturalization for pro-Fascist activities.

JUNE 25—"Rural Justice", a Coughlinite newspaper in Troy, Alabama, discontinues publication for duration of war.

JUNE 28—Ernest Frederick Lehmitz arrested as a German spy.

JUNE 29—Erwin Harry De Spretter, who confessed acting in concert with Ernest F. Lehmitz in sending military information to Germany, arrested.

JULY 8—Frederick Heizer Wright, copy editor for the "New York Daily News," indicted as an unregistered agent of the Japanese government.

JULY 13—The conviction of Werner von Clemm for conspiring to evade a Presidential freezing order unanimously upheld. Von Clemm imported diamonds seized by the Nazis after the invasion of Belgium and

Holland, sold the diamonds here and returned the money to Germany.

JULY 15—Four employees on Ellis Island were suspended on charges of aiding William Gerald Bishop, an enemy alien and Christian Front leader.

JULY 17—F.B.I. announces arrest of German woman employed before the war by the Sherl Publishing Co. in Berlin. Her duties were gathering information and pictures to be used against America by Nazi propagandists.

JULY 19—E. P. Dutton publishes UNDER COVER.

JULY 21—Senator James E. Murray of Montana attacks the "New York Daily News" as campaigning "against everything that is progressive in this country."

JULY 22—The appeal of William Gerald Bishop, Christian Front leader, to the Circuit Court is dismissed. As an enemy alien, Bishop is removed from Ellis Island to an internment camp.

JULY 26—Attorney General Biddle announces the indictment for treason of eight American citizens serving as radio broadcasters for Germany and Italy. The eight included Ezra Pound, Robert H. Best, Fredrick Wilhelm Kaltenbach, Jane Anderson, Douglas Chandler, Constance Drexel, Edward Leo Delaney, and Max Otto Koischwitz.

JULY 31—George Sylvester Viereck sentenced to serve from one to five years for violation of the foreign agents registration act.

AUG. 1—Papers report that Joe McWilliams is fired from his job as an industrial engineer with the George S. May Co.

AUG. 13—Proceedings filed to cancel citizenship of eleven persons of German and Italian origin who have aided the Axis countries. The group includes Axel Wheeler-Hill, convicted spy and brother of James Wheeler-Hill of the German American Bund, and Antonio Corigliano, former director of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in New York.

SEPT. 1—F.B.I. announces arrest of 31 German aliens in New York area. This group includes former employees of the German Library of Information and the German-American Vocational League.

SEPT. 7—The Republican Post-War Advisory Council passes resolution recommending "responsible



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participation by the United States in postwar cooperative organization among sovereign nations to prevent military aggression and to attain permanent peace with organized justice in a free world."

SEPT. 9—*National Democratic Club* and *National Republican Club* issue joint statement asking Congress to enact legislation immediately permitting entry into the U. S. of all aliens seeking asylum from religious persecution.

SEPT. 16—The trial of *Ernest Frederick Lehmitz* and *Erwin Harry De Spretter* ends abruptly as defendants change their pleas to guilty of conspiracy to commit acts of espionage against the United States Government.

SEPT. 17—Four men and four women indicted in Detroit on charges of conspiring under the wartime espionage act to supply the German government with information regarding the defense and war moves of the United States. The group includes *Grace Buchanan-Dineen*, who lectured frequently before women's groups.

SEPT. 21—House of Representatives, by vote of 360 to 29, passes the *Fulbright resolution* approving American participation in "international machinery" to keep the peace in the postwar world.

SEPT. 22—*John Charles Le Clair*, former history professor, sentenced to a year and a day in prison and fined \$9,000 for failing to register as a paid agent of Japan.

SEPT. 22—*American Legion* accuses *Hamilton Fish* of permitting his Congressional frank to be used to spread "propaganda inimical to the United States."

SEPT. 28—*Ernest Frederick Lehmitz* and *Erwin Harry De Spretter* sentenced to 30 years in prison as spies for the German government.

OCT. 5—Federal grand jury indicts *German-American Vocational League* and 27 officers and members as alleged secret agents of the German Reich.

OCT. 6—Seven naturalized citizens of German birth indicted on charge of serving as Nazi spies before this country entered the war. This group includes members of the *German-American Vocational League* and persons convicted of failure to register as Nazi agents.

OCT. 12—*Donald Shea* of the *National Gentile League* ordered excluded from all U. S. coastal areas

as "dangerous to national defense."

OCT. 21—Anti-Semitic disorders under statewide investigation by Massachusetts police operating under orders from Gov. *Leverett Saltonstall*.

NOV. 5—Senate passes the revised *Connally resolution* 85 to 5 favoring postwar collaboration with other nations.

NOV. 8—*Harold L. Ickes* attacks the *Patterson-McCormick-Hearst press*.

NOV. 10—*Robert Rice Reynolds* announces that he will not seek re-election to the United States Senate.

NOV. 20—*Eleanor (Cissie) Patterson* visits the office of Friends of Democracy to protest its campaign against the *Patterson-McCormick* "newspaper axis." In so doing she indicates that the campaign has been effective.

NOV. 20—The "Florida Catholic" protests the ouster of *Francis McMahon* as associate professor at Notre Dame.

NOV. 21—Announced that text books in Italy will be revised and that the Fascist propaganda will be deleted.

NOV. 21—"Il Lavoro Fascista," official Fascist newspaper in Rome, announces that it will cease publication "for obvious reasons."

NOV. 26—Senate repeals Chinese Exclusion Laws.

DEC. 3—Republican leaders lay plans to oppose Congressman *Hamilton Fish* in the 1944 primary election.

DEC. 10—*Dr. Francis E. McMahon*, fired from Notre Dame for his anti-Franco, pro-Russian stand, is appointed associate professor of philosophy at the University of Chicago.

DEC. 13—Reported that the *Illinois State Industrial Union Council* unanimously adopted a resolution attacking the "Chicago Tribune" as the "arch enemy of the American people."

DEC. 13—Supreme Court upholds conviction of *Mitie Maud-Lena Gordon* and other Chicago members of the *Peace Movement of Ethiopia* for conspiracy to cause disloyalty in the armed forces.

DEC. 17—Governor *Bricker* of Ohio repudiates *John A. Schaefer's National Committee to Draft Bricker and MacArthur*.

DEC. 20—Newsstands offer for sale a 50 cent edition of "Sabotage" by *Albert Kahn* and *Michael Sayers*.



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DEC. 21—Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands assails Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine for dismissing departmental charges against James L. Drew, Brooklyn patrolman; Herlands says Valentine's decision "is a major defeat on the home front."

DEC. 27—Ben Berve, chairman of the Illinois Republican State Central Committee, announces that Col. Robert McCormick does not wish to become a Republican Presidential candidate.

DEC. 27—Carlos Vejerano y Cassina, a Spaniard who fought with Franco, sentenced to a year and a day in prison for failure to register as a Nazi agent. He will face mandatory deportation and exclusion from the U.S. after his prison term is completed.

DEC. 31—UNDER COVER sales reach 643,000.

## LOSSES — 1943

JAN. 14—Gerald P. Nye tells Senate the 33 persons under indictment for conspiracy to undermine the morale of the armed forces "are no more guilty of conspiracy than I am."

JAN. 15—Gerald L. K. Smith launches the America First Party.

JAN. 23—General Francisco Franco says Germany's war against Russia is the greatest battle in history and expresses pride that "Spanish blood is flowing in this noble enterprise."

JAN. 29—John O'Donnell, head of the Washington Bureau of the "New York Daily News," wins his \$50,000 libel suit against the "Philadelphia Record".

FEB. 7—Gerald L. K. Smith's America First Party passes resolution approving of Charles Lindbergh and Eddie Rickenbacker as "Presidential material."

MARCH 1—Supreme Court reverses conviction of George Sylvester Viereck as a Nazi agent who failed to report all of his activities to the State Department.

MARCH 2—Senator William Langer calls for Senate investigation into the "persecution" of George Sylvester Viereck by the Department of Justice, and suggests that Viereck be reimbursed for expenses incurred in his defense.

MARCH 31—Hamilton Fish introduces a bill in Congress which, if passed, would wreck the trial of the 33 persons under indictment for seditious conspiracy.

## LOSSES — 1943

APRIL 1—Carl Mote, Indiana utilities president, launches a new magazine, "America Preferred", dedicated to isolationism and an end to the "military dictatorship and Fascist state in America."

APRIL 13—Papers announce that Lawrence Dennis, America's leading "intellectual fascist," was aided in his successful fight against removal from the Eastern Defense area by Senators Gerald P. Nye and Burton K. Wheeler.

MAY 10—Papers announce that Hamilton Fish loaned his Congressional frank to Elizabeth Dilling and C. Leon de Aryan, both of whom are under indictment for sedition. Dilling and de Aryan used Fish's franked envelopes to send reprints of the Congressman's speech attacking the sedition trial to their respective lists.

MAY 13—William Luedtke, former national secretary of the German American Bund, testifies in court that the Bund is still carrying on behind the front of German singing societies and athletic clubs.

MAY 16—Blue Network censors Walter Winchell's attack on Clare Hoffman.

MAY 28—Clare Hoffman addresses the Institute of American Economics, an organization that once employed Joe McWilliams.

JUNE 6—Papers announce revival of Coughlinite American Rock Party.

JUNE 18—House of Representatives passes bill killing domestic branch of the Office of War Information.

JUNE 21—Race riots break out in Detroit.

JULY 15—Suspension of James L. Drew from the New York police force lifted pending settlement of the case against Drew, who is charged with aiding persons engaged in un-American and anti-war activities.

JULY 15—Dean Ignatius M. Wilkinson, Franco sympathizer, becomes Corporation Counsel for New York City.

JULY 25—Papers disclose that Gerald P. Nye's frank being used to mail out Jeannette Rankin's speech blaming Pearl Harbor on the United States. These speeches, in Nye franked envelopes, being mailed to nearest of kin of men killed in the war.

JULY 25—Papers discover that Joe McWilliams, who once called Hitler "the greatest leader in the history



## LOSSES — 1943

of the world," is employed by the George S. May Co., a firm doing war work for the government.

AUG. 1—Riots break out in Harlem.

AUG. 5—Frank E. Gannett threatens book stores handling UNDER COVER.

AUG. 5—E. P. Dutton & Co., publishers, charge Frank E. Gannett, and his Committee for Constitutional Government with conducting an organized campaign to suppress UNDER COVER.

AUG. 27—Hamilton Fish calls upon the Republican Party to draft General Douglas MacArthur as its candidate for President.

AUG. 27—Revealed that Henry Ford's anti-Semitic book, "The International Jew" is being distributed in large quantities in Latin America. Despite Ford's repudiation of the book, its Spanish edition prominently displays his name on the cover.

OCT. 12—Gerald L. K. Smith's America First Party approves Charles A. Lindbergh as a Presidential candidate.

OCT. 16—Revealed that Robert M. Harriss associated with Frank Gannett is the same Robert Harriss who worked with Father Charles E. Coughlin.

OCT. 26—Revived Christian Front in Boston sponsors banquet celebrating the 52nd birthday of Father Charles E. Coughlin.

NOV. 3—Revealed that Dr. Francis E. McMahon was

fired from his post as associate professor of philosophy at the University of Notre Dame for advocating collaboration with Russia and condemning Franco.

NOV. 4—Burton K. Wheeler introduces resolution calling for a Senate investigation of John Roy Carlson and UNDER COVER. Resolution referred to the Judiciary Committee of which Wheeler is a member.

NOV. 8—Revealed that Franco wrote to all members of the Spanish volunteer Blue Division which officially has been withdrawn from the Russian Front, requesting them to join the German Army.

NOV. 20—Sir Oswald Mosley, British Fascist leader, released from prison because of illness.

DEC. 1—Announced that a campaign to "draft" Col. Robert R. McCormick as Republican Presidential candidate will be launched Jan. 10 by the Republican Nationalist Revival Committee.

DEC. 13—National convention of MacArthur for President Clubs to be held in Chicago early in 1944, Joe Savage, president of the Illinois MacArthur Club announces.

DEC. 20—Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine announces that he dismissed departmental charges against Patrolman James L. Drew of Brooklyn who was charged with associating with persons engaged in un-American and anti-war activities.

DEC. 29—William J. Grace of the Republican Nationalist Revivalist Committee announces that petitions to draft Col. Robert McCormick as a candidate in the Illinois preferential primary for President will continue to be circulated.

DEC. 31—The Patterson-McCormick "newspaper Axis"—the "N. Y. Daily News," the "Chicago Tribune," and the "Washington Times-Herald"—continue to follow the "anti" propaganda line without the slightest indication of a change of heart.

DEC. 31—Development of organized sympathy for Germany continues. This movement is now under way and widespread.

DEC. 31—Propaganda against bombing Germany, against blockade also continues. This propaganda is similar to the anti-Versailles Treaty propaganda, the anti-German war guilt propaganda so responsible for World War II and such propaganda may be responsible for World War III.

## FRIENDS OF DEMOCRACY, INC.

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