

THE PROPAGANDA BATTLEFRONT

Issued by: FRIENDS OF DEMOCRACY, INC.

Eastern Regional Office:

137 East 57th Street, New York 22, N. Y.

April 29, 1944

VOL. II, No. XVI

The New York Daily News—Mouthpiece of the Disloyal Opposition

Before December 7, 1941, the America First Committee was the rallying ground for the American Fascist movement.

From Joe McWilliams in New York to Hermann Schwinn in California, the Fascists extolled Lindbergh as America's "man on a white horse." Father Charles E. Coughlin urged readers of *Social Justice* to invade the Committee; Elizabeth Dilling marched her women to Washington to urge Congress to follow the America First line.

In Wichita, Kansas, E. J. Garner praised Lindbergh for calling "a spade a spade." In California, Coughlinite groups and the German American Bund practically closed up shop so that their members might work for America first.

Although the action of the Japs at Pearl Harbor resulted in the dissolution of General Wood's America First Committee, it did not destroy Fascism in the United States. It merely wrecked its medium of expression.

The Fascists were still Fascists. So they went shopping for another "respectable" front.

Joseph Medill Patterson's *New York Daily News*, which still clung to the "patriotic" slogan, "America First," looked like a likely, and friendly,

prospect. The Fascists wrote letters to Mr. Patterson. Soon his letters-to-the-editor column reeked with notes like this: "The millions who love the truth... love and listen to Father Coughlin."

THE FASCISTS WORK FOR PATTERSON

The Nazi-Fascist recognition of Patterson as a fellow traveler dates back to 1939 when the *Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter*, organ of the German American Bund, praised the *New York Daily News* for saying Danzig was not "worth the life of a single Englishman" or of one French "poilu."

The affection became more pronounced as the war in Europe advanced. During the last few months of 1941, nearly every issue of the *Deutscher Weckruf* praised or reprinted one or more editorials from Patterson's paper. The last four issues carried five editorials from the *Daily News*, a plug for Danton Walker's column in the *Daily News*, and a paragraph praising the *News* in general.

Other Nazi-Fascist organs were quick to follow the *Weckruf's* lead. Besides the Bund paper, those who praised the *Daily News* and reprinted its

editorials include:

1. *Roll Call*, a magazine edited by William Dudley Pelley of Indianapolis, Indiana. Pelley is now serving a jail sentence for sedition.
2. *Publicity*, a newspaper published by E. J. Garner of Wichita, Kansas. Garner has been indicted three times by Federal grand juries and is now standing trial in Washington on charges of conspiring to commit sedition.
3. *America In Danger*, a news bulletin edited by Charles Hudson of Omaha, Nebraska. Hudson, too, has been indicted three times for sedition and is now standing trial in Washington.
4. *The Defender*, a magazine edited by Gerald B. Winrod of Wichita, Kansas. Winrod is now on trial for conspiring to commit sedition.
5. *X-Ray*, a newspaper edited by Court Asher of Muncie, Indiana. Asher is under two Federal indictments for sedition.
6. *America Speaks*, a newspaper edited by William Kullgren of Atascadero, California. Kullgren is under two indictments for sedition.
7. *The Broom*, a newspaper edited by C. Leon de Aryan of San Diego, California. De Aryan is under two indictments for sedition.
8. *Social Justice*, a newspaper published by Charles E. Coughlin of Royal Oak, Michigan. *Social Justice* was discontinued after it was held to be "obviously seditious."
9. *Scribner's Commentator* of New York and Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Ralph Townsend, one of its editors, was convicted as a Japanese agent. (This is not a Charles Scribner's publication.)
10. *The Brooklyn Tablet*, a newspaper edited by Patrick Scanlan in Brooklyn, New York. Scanlan is a follower of Father Charles E. Coughlin and was a Christian Front leader.
11. *The Gaelic American* of New York City. This paper features a column by Edward Lodge Curran, a leader of the Christian Front and Coughlin's personal representative in the East.
12. *The Cross and the Flag*, a magazine edited by Gerald L. K. Smith at Detroit, Michigan. Smith, once a member of William Dudley Pelley's storm-trooping Silver Shirts and an old friend of Coughlin's, has organized a nationwide America First Party which threatens to be a powerful force for super-nationalism in the coming Presidential election.
13. and 14. *The American Vindicator* and *The National Record*, newspapers published by

Senator Robert Rice Reynolds in Washington, D. C. Reynolds has inserted into the Congressional Record a speech by Gerald Winrod and an editorial from Domenico Trombetta's *Il Grido della Stirpe*. Winrod is under indictment for sedition, and Trombetta has been denaturalized, interned as an enemy alien, and is under indictment for failure to register as an agent of the Italian government.

15. *The Malist*, a news bulletin edited by F. H. Sattler of Meriden, Connecticut. *The Malist* is filled with references to "Masonic conspiracies" and "atheistic Jews."

16. *Peace Now* literature published in New York City. Headed by George W. Hartmann, the *Peace Now* Movement is calling for an immediate negotiated peace with Hitler.

17. *America Preferred*, a small magazine edited by Carl Mote in Indianapolis, Indiana. Mote is an anti-Semite who has collaborated with most of the pro-Fascists in the mid-West.

It was *The Cross and the Flag* that told just how America's "vermin press" feels about Joe Patterson: "The *New York Daily News* is the largest daily newspaper in America. On many matters their editorial policy is in substantial agreement with the editorial policy of *The Cross and the Flag*. Perhaps no two men in America are doing more to hold back the tide of internationalism, Red Communism and bureaucratic Fascism, than Capt. Patterson who runs the *New York News* and Col. McCormick who runs the *Chicago Tribune*." And Edward James Smythe, who is on trial in Washington for conspiracy to commit sedition, summed it up further by saying: "For Truth and Justice, read the *Chicago Tribune*, *Washington Times-Herald*, and *New York Daily News* editorials."

...AND PATTERSON IS
USEFUL TO THE FASCISTS

Now Patterson hasn't repulsed the Nazi-Fascist overtures. His editorials have never denounced the "vermin press"; he has never, to our knowledge, asked the pro-Nazi press to stop using his editorials for their propaganda purposes. Patterson, on the other hand, has made some overtures himself.

On December 15, 1938, the *New York Daily News* reprinted almost in full the text of William Dudley Pelley's "list of Jews" in the government. The story, which covered three very precious,

crowded pages, listed about 300 "Jews" — including William C. Bullitt, Frances Perkins, Leon Henderson, Cordell Hull, and Heywood Broun. The story was written by Patterson's Washington correspondent, John O'Donnell.

After Pearl Harbor, Patterson not only retained John O'Donnell, but he printed O'Donnell's column, "Capitol Stuff," five days a week instead of one day a week. This despite the fact that O'Donnell was quoted as saying: "The Nazis have done a lot of good things... certain elements needed cleaning up in Germany."

It was also after Pearl Harbor that Patterson extolled the work of James J. McCourt, Queens Coughlinite, who petitioned Congress to remove Mayor LaGuardia as city defense director. In 1942 the *New York Daily News* featured a series of articles designed to clear Ham Fish of the charges that he had worked with the Nazi agents, George Sylvester Viereck and Frederick Auhagen.

As Patterson's editorials paralleled more and more closely the Axis propaganda line, the letters-to-the-editor column, "Voice of the People," developed a definite pro-Fascist trend. Known pro-Fascists and anti-Semites such as John Geis, Allan Wells, and Lambert Fairchild began to pop up in the column. When *Social Justice* was barred from the mail, the letters jumped to the defense of Coughlin. G. H. Quinn wrote: "The attempt to silence Father Coughlin looks very much like a sore-head squawk to me. The interventionists clamored loudly for war. Now that they have it, and it is not going any too well for them... they want to vent their spleen via the gag method." After the 33 persons were indicted on charges of sedition, the letters-to-the-editor suddenly became concerned over "freedom of speech."

These letters foreshadowed a Patterson editorial stand. In July, 1942, just after the alleged seditionists were indicted, Patterson intimated that they were victims of the "gag method." And on February 7, 1943, he came out squarely in their defense. "It all began with the gagging of Father Coughlin," Patterson wrote, "who was thrown off the air because what he said offended a lot of people." According to Patterson, those indicted for sedition aren't seditionists at all — they are "publishers of small anti-Administration sheets."

In January, 1944, the Department of Justice secured another indictment. This one charged 30 persons with conspiring with German officials to

set up a Nazi government in the United States. Although Patterson's editorials have not taken a stand on this indictment, the letters-to-the-editor are still clamoring in the same vein. "Phoney sedition trials, purges and persecutions," one letter said, "are the order of the day for anyone who disagrees with the Administration." Another said: "In 1940, 27,404,235 people voted for Browder, Roosevelt, Thomas and Aiken... everyone of these voters ought to be indicted for conspiring to establish Nazism in the United States. Why bother with 30 persons and ignore 27 million plus?"

Patterson further showed how he feels about the alleged seditionists early this year when one of his editorials came to the defense of James LeRoy Drew. Drew, a New York patrolman, temporarily was suspended from his post for un-American activities. His "alleged offense," Patterson brushed the whole matter off by saying, "consisted in not liking Jews." Actually, Drew *had been associated with nine persons who are under indictment for conspiracy to commit sedition and undermine the morale of the armed forces of the United States.*

One of Patterson's latest overtures to the Nazi-Fascists is the boost he gave to the *Peace Now* Movement. A recent editorial began: "John O'Donnell in his 'Capitol Stuff' Washington Column the other day had an amusing item from some organization..." The "amusing item" turned out to be a quotation from *Peace Now*, the movement that is calling for an immediate negotiated peace with Hitler and Hirohito.

PROPAGANDA IS A WEAPON

Propaganda is a weapon as much as submarines, tanks and bombers. Friends of Democracy has been carrying on a militant campaign against anti-democratic propaganda for a number of years. The impact of the Axis propaganda is now tremendous. Therefore, it is necessary for Friends of Democracy to carry on more vigorously than heretofore. Our organization invites the cooperation and support of all who are concerned about the preservation of democratic civilization.

Meanwhile, the letters-to-the-editor column boosted the latest crusade of the more rabid negotiated peacers. Don't buy War Bonds, these people say. And the *New York Daily News* letter says: "I've just kicked a War Bond salesman out of my house with these remarks: 'Do you realize how our War Bond money is being squandered, you stupid Jackass? Get the hell out of here!'"

HITLER ECHOES PATTERSON

Ever since 1941, the Berlin shortwave radio has been reading the *New York Daily News* editorials to the American people. Quoting Joseph Patterson as an authority, Hitler has tried to prove that Roosevelt was "pulling us into war," that Roosevelt should be impeached, that the British started the war, that the Atlantic Charter is a "statement of the joint philosophy of (two) dictators," that Russia is going to doublecross us at the first opportunity.

Just as Patterson feels that the sedition indictments will set "precedents for moving against larger anti-Administration publishers," Hitler's shortwave contends that the *New York Daily News* is "being persecuted by the Roosevelt administration." The *New York Daily News*, Berlin said, is a "true American paper . . . representing the majority of the American people."

...AND PATTERSON PARALLELS HITLER

Just as Hitler "discovered" the *New York Daily News* in 1941, Patterson's paralleling of Hitler dates back to pre-Pearl Harbor days.

Before December 7, 1941, the *Daily News* publisher told us Hitler was no menace. Thirteen days before Pearl Harbor, he ran an editorial entitled, "Come on — Let's Appease Japan."

After the Japanese attack and the German declaration of war, Patterson didn't change his mind. He called Roosevelt a dictator, insisted that the Administration would cancel elections for the duration, and declared that there was no difference between our Four Freedoms and Hitler's "Geopolitics."

Patterson has said that we could stop fighting Hitler now, that a victorious Russia would be as great a menace to the United States as a victorious Hitler, that the British are likely to get us "into more and bigger wars." Patterson reveals his attitude toward China in editorials about "Asiatic hordes" which he expects will be "spilling over here" after the war and "helping themselves to our living space, raw materials and women."

While the nation has been clamoring for the unconditional surrender of the Axis, Patterson has been saying that unconditional surrender is a bad thing. It will only prolong the war, he says. It isn't pacifism that motivates Patterson's clamor for a negotiated peace, for we'll always have wars — that's human nature, he says. But he keeps right on denouncing unconditional surrender and implying that we should negotiate a peace.

At least three times Patterson has held over our heads the bogey of revolution. If the 1942 elections had been called off (no one suggested that they would be called off except Patterson and Lindbergh), he said there would have been an "attempted or actual revolution." Patterson feared that there would be a "revolution" if the Ruml Plan was not adopted by Congress. But Patterson became most heated in discussing the Four Freedoms. If "these dreams" are brought "into cold, solid reality after the war," he wrote, "they will fan up a fight in this country which will make the recent isolationist-interventionist fight look like a mere warm-up."

As Hitler said to Rauschning: "We will find men to do our work, everywhere. We won't even have to buy them. They'll come looking for us driven by ambition, by partisan discord, by blindness, by pride and by hatred."

FRIENDS OF DEMOCRACY, INC.

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VOL. II. No. XVI

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