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The Hour

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January 12, 1943

THE CASE OF GEORGE DEATHERAGE AND WOMEN UNITED

Hitherto Unrevealed Facts About the Pro-Nazi Propagandist Recently Indicted by Department of Justice; His Connections with Women United, an Organization Sponsored by Senators' Wives.

The Hour can reveal that George V. Deatherage, who has just been indicted by a Washington Federal Grand Jury as one of the ringleaders in a conspiracy to sabotage the morale and discipline of the United States armed forces, maintained close contact with Women United, the unofficial ladies' auxiliary of the America First Committee which was organized with the help of the paid Nazi agent, Taura Ingalls. Women United was sponsored and supported by the America First political clique in Congress - by Senators Burton K. Wheeler, Robert Rice Reynolds, Bennett Champ Clark, and Gerald P. Nye. Political activities of Women United were privately assisted by the Senators' wives: Mrs. Lulu Wheeler, Mrs. Robert A. Taft and Mrs. Bennett Champ Clark.

Behind the scenes, George V. Deatherage gave confidential instructions to Mrs. Geraldine Buchanan Parker, the Executive Secretary of Women United, on how Nazi anti-Semitic propaganda might be spread throughout the United States in a camouflaged form "acceptable" to the American public.

On April 14, 1941, Deatherage replied to a communication from Mrs. Parker and suggested how she might disseminate Nazi anti-Semitic propaganda without revealing herself to be an open adherent of Nazism:

"Your literature does not need to state the word - Jew. All you have to do in order to place the blame where the people can understand it is to accuse the international bankers. The masses have now been educated to understand what is meant."

Urging Mrs. Parker to "put out 25,000 leaflets putting the blame on the international bankers", Deatherage wrote:

"Sen. Holt (Senator Rush D. Holt of West Virginia) can give you the information, you can quote from the Congressional Record - it is there."

Deatherage's Career

George V. Deatherage was first exposed as a pro-Nazi propagandist by this newsletter on May 30, 1939. At that time The Hour made public the fact that Dr. Goebbels' Propaganda Ministry, recognizing the role Deatherage was playing in spreading Nazi doctrines in the United States, had invited him to attend an international conference of anti-Semitic propagandists at Erfurt, Germany. Nazi agents from all parts of the world attended this Erfurt conference, at which Deatherage was enthusiastically hailed as the American delegate. He addressed the conference in English. His topic was: "Will America be the Jews' Waterloo?"

On his return from Germany, Deatherage proceeded to organize an American Fascist movement under the leadership of General George Van Horn Moseley. Deatherage called his organization, which was frankly fascist in character, the American Nationalist Confederation. He wrote to his associate James Campbell: "...the organization must be built around a propaganda organization now that can in a few hours be turned into a militant fighting force. That is the idea of the boss, also, but it must be kept on the Q.T."

In the intense political atmosphere which preceded the Axis attack on the United States, George Deatherage was particularly active in spreading the isolationist-appeasement propaganda of the America First Committee. Realizing that his earlier openly pro-Nazi propaganda was now out of tune with the times, Deatherage assumed the role of brain-truster to the America First movement, instructing professional "isolationists" in the art of spreading Nazi propaganda without betraying its origin.

He was especially interested in guiding the newly-formed America First women's organizations which sprang up all over the country during 1940-41 as a result of the diligent spadework of such ladies as Laura Ingalls, who is now in jail as a convicted Nazi agent, and Elizabeth Dilling, Mrs. Leslie Fry and Mrs. Lois de Lafayette Washburn, all of whom are now under Federal inductment on charges of sedition and conspiracy to sabotage morale. Laura Ingalls, while on the Nazi payroll, took a leading part in the organization of Women United which was founded in New York City around the end of March 1941.

Lulu Wheeler and Robert Reynolds

On May 10, 1941, Mrs. Lulu Wheeler, the wife of Senator Burton K. Wheeler, privately supervised a Women United "pilgrimage" to Washington. This "pilgrimage" was supposed to be a spontaneous anti-Administration demonstration, while in fact it was carefully organized and directed

by Mrs. Wheeler. The book Sabotage! The Secret War Against America, by the editors of The Hour, brought to light an extraordinary letter written by Mrs. Wheeler to Mrs. Hall Herrick, an official of Women United in May 1941. In this letter the Senator's wife even instructed Women United regarding what slogans to print on their placards: "'No Convoys, No War' 'We Want NO War and We Mean It' 'We Don't Like Hitler Beacuse He Doesn't Keep His Word' 'Be Sure You Keep Your Promises Mr. Roosevelt' etc. etc.'" Mrs. Wheeler made arrangements for the Women United demonstrators to be met "on the East steps of the Capitol (about 2 p.m.) where some Senators (whom you would write in advance of your coming) would speak to you and pictures be taken." Mrs. Wheeler promised Mrs. Herrick: "Mrs. Taft, Mrs. Bennett Clark and I ... will do what we can to help make your visit a profitable one."

Senator Robert Rice Reynolds, who was then serving as honorary chairman of a mysterious propaganda committee which had been set up in Washington and financed by the Nazi agent George Sylvester Viereck, was also very interested in promoting the activities of Women United. On Senator Reynolds' advice, Mrs. Geraldine Buchanan Parker, the Executive Secretary of Women United, got in touch with Robert M. Harris, Father Coughlin's financial adviser in New York City. On April 10, 1941, Harris wrote to Mrs. Parker,

"Thank you for your kind letter of the 9th instant enclosing tickets at the personal request of Senator Reynolds... Attached is a list of women to whom I suggest you extend invitations to attend your meeting."

Investigation of Women United Urged

We are turning over to Special Assistant Attorney General William P. Maloney, who is in charge of the Federal Grand Jury in Washington, all documentary material in our files concerning the operations of the Women United.

The Hour urges an immediate investigation of George Deatherage's connections with Women United and of the organization itself, which continued its anti-democratic propaganda after Pearl Harbor and consistently sought to undermine the morale of the American people before and after was was declared.

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STRANGE CONNECTIONS OF CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL

In our August 22, 1942 issue we urged that Military Intelligence investigate Top Kick, a pseudo-humorous magazine which was spreading propaganda among the U.S. armed forces designed to undermine their confidence in the army leadership, stir up misgivings about the Government, and foster doubts and suspicions against our allies, Great Britain, China and the Soviet Union. Top Kick was subsequently barred from army camps by the authorities; and on September 26 we were able to report that David Gordon, who edited the magazine under the pseudonym of "Jack Dinsmore", had decided to discontinue its publication.

But Top Kick was not David Gordon's only publishing project at the time. The former Cleveland journalist, who gave up his newspaper work for a career of publishing obscene magazines, was engaged in another and, on the surface at least, a somewhat paradoxical literary venture. He had just launched a monthly publication called Catholic International, a magazine, as he reverently describes it, "of Christian decency for the Christian home".

Gordon obviously spared no effort to give the Catholic International what he considered was the right clerical touch. On its cover is the portrait of a woman saint, and the magazine abounds with quotations from the Scriptures, with prayers, devout poems and "Meditations".

Nevertheless, the religious camouflage of Catholic International is patently thin. Every page reveals the magazine's fascistic Jew-baiting character. Berating Catholics who cooperate with "non-Christians", attacking as "unbaptized grease" the writings of "this Jew" Franz Werfel, and proclaiming "The anti-Christ is in our midst!", the Catholic International follows faithfully in the footsteps of Father Coughlin's Social Justice, which was barred from the U.S. mails because of its seditious content. Overnight, the first issue of Catholic International, totaling some 40,000 copies, appeared in familiar haunts of the Christian Front, Coughlin's stormtroop band which has never really ceased its subversive operations. And in the most recent issue, Father Coughlin is openly identified with Gordon's publication. A page, headed "The Imperishable Christ", is devoted to a pious message from the pro-Axis priest of Royal Oak, Michigan. The obvious purpose of this message, which represents Coughlin's official "blessing" of Gordon's publication, is to rally all Coughlinite elements around Catholic International.

From the day that Catholic International appeared, it was clear the magazine had certain mysterious financial backing. David Gordon is not well-to-do. His chief interest in publishing pornographic literature in the past has been in the possible cash returns, which never amounted to a great deal. Since quantities of Catholic International --an expensive job--were distributed free of charge, there was obviously a financial angel hovering in the background. The Hour can now reveal that the printer's bills are being paid by one of the key executives of International Circulation Co., official distributing agent for publications of William Randolph Hearst.

The Hour urges that Catholic International, which has been vigorously denounced by such prominent Catholics as Michael Williams, be immediately suppressed because of its generally seditious character and because it seeks to disunite Americans at a time when this nation is at war.