

Called a Nazi, He Quits GOP

By JAY LEVIN

Dr. Joseph Pauco, editor of a Slovak-American newspaper, has resigned as an official of the Republican National Committee in the wave of charges that he was a former Nazi collaborator and propagandist.

Pauco, 57, controller of the GOP committee's Ethnic Council, denied the accusations today but said, "I offered the resignation if it helps the President or the Republican Party."

Several Jewish organizations had demanded that Republican national chairman Sen. Robert Dole remove Pauco from the committee post. Dole could not be reached for comment today.

Pauco's alleged Nazi background was first revealed two weeks ago by columnist Jack Anderson. According to Anderson, Pauco in 1940 was named editor-in-chief of the newspaper, Slovak, by his "mentor and mahatma," Jodseph Tiso, after Hitler had installed Tiso as "puppet dictator" of Slovakia following the Nazi conquest of Czechoslovakia and its division into two countries.

Slovak, Anderson wrote, became Tiso's official organ, "a strident voice of the Nazi regime. In effect, Pauco became Slovakia's Joseph Goebbels."

"It's a lie. Definitely it's a lie," Pauco said from his Middletown, Pa. home today, where he publishes Slovak Amerike. "I was no Nazi or pro-Nazi . . . Slovak was a Slovakian newspaper but not a Nazi newspaper."

Pauco said his war-time publication was anti-Communist, not pro-Nazi, and he denied that Tiso was a Nazi puppet who collaborated in the massacre of Jews. "He was not a war criminal," Pauco said. "He was not recog-

nized by the Nuremberg courts as a war criminal. He was recognized only by the Communists and he was held by the Communists and Jack Anderson should know better."

Tiso was hanged as a war criminal in Bratislava in 1947. At his trial, according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'rith, Tiso tried to "justify the various anti-Jewish massacres taken by his regime" and Pauco reprinted this justification in a book published here in 1952 in which Pauco lavishly praised Tiso.

Pauco also denied having written or published anti-Semitic articles. "I didn't write anything against the Jews," he said. "And I'd like to see the paper [in which he allegedly wrote such articles]."

Anderson Cites Writings

According to Anderson, a 1944 issue of Slovak carried a signed editorial by Pauco which declared: "There is only one alliance, and that alliance is with Germany."

A later issue said: The great German Reich, led by Fuehrer Adolf Hitler, proved to the Slovaks its benevolence."

The same year, in what Anderson called "a typical diatribe against the Jews," the newspaper declared: "We all know about their moral decay and their murderous hatred of Christian people."

Asked if he had collaborated in persecution of the Jews, Pauco said: "No, I was not. I was not, my friend. In my office were working two Jews during the war and their families were hiding in my office."

Pauco said that because of his efforts, both families survived. One now lives in Bratislava, he said; the other in Canada.

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