

(From the Congressional Record, August 13, 1941, pp.7260-1)

Mr. CONNERY. Mr. Speaker, were this country to send the consuls of that pewee Hitler, Francisco Franco, back to Spain, we would be taking a drastic step, but after reading the revealing story entitled "How Axis 'Fifth Column' in Cuba Strikes at United States," in the current issue of Click magazine, I wonder if we ought not do exactly that.

We are all familiar with the slimy work of Nazi and Fascist agents in this hemisphere, and our Government has taken action against them. But I must confess that we never dreamed Franco's agents had made such deep and dangerous inroads and are, in fact, becoming more important to Hitler than his own agents in Central and South America. I think we must do something about this new menace.

This week, it is reported, two members of the Cuban Senate requested that the Italian and German consuls be banished for their nefarious activities. In Chile, in Brazil, in Mexico, and in other Central and South American nations similar and even more drastic action is being taken. There can be no question about the danger of the Axis having been sensed throughout the Western Hemisphere. But, if these legations, including the Japanese, are driven out of this hemisphere the high-powered Axis campaign against democracy will not be in one whit abated. The reason for this is becoming more and more painfully evident.

Click devotes 4 pages to explaining how this Axis loophole operates, how it acts to undermine our democracy. The story can be summed up in two words: Falange Española. Behind these two words is a pistol aimed at the very heart of democracy in the New World.

This article makes some very specific charges. These charges are based upon the research of an investigator the publication sent to Cuba. He brought back documentary proof that the Falange is Hitler's ace in the hole for the New World. He spoke to Dr. Gustavo Guitierrez, Speaker of the Cuban House of Representatives, who told him, "Since the Nazis and Italians find it hard to operate openly through their own organization, they work mainly through their puppet, the Franco Falange."

In Cuba alone—1 hour by plane from the American mainland—the Falange has 30,000 members actively engaged in undermining democracy, in pumping for fascism. They swear fealty to Franco; they hail Hitler as a noble ally; they

maintain an army that includes a full infantry regiment, an artillery battalion, a cavalry squadron, engineers, and an aviation squadron of over 200 men.

The Falange has spread like a pestilence all over Latin America. It is a pestilence, moreover, which has succeeded in escaping the bright glare of publicity hitherto accorded the Nazis. This is just what Hitler wants. He expects, eventually, that as events catch up with the Axis legations, the Falange will be left alone to carry on his work under the direction of his agents now directing it in Latin America. It is time we realized that Francisco Franco is as much a creature of Adolf Hitler as Quisling, Mussolini, and other so-called independent fuehrers. As Click points out in this timely exposé:

Whether Franco stays in office as puppet dictator of Spain or not depends upon whether puppet-master Hitler wins this war. Therefore, the Falange, Franco's personal Fascist party, is doing everything it can to bring about a Hitler victory.

Nor is the Falange confined to South America. It is active right here in the United States, where it is said to have support in powerful quarters. It is time we smoked out the activities of this latest Axis threat. If, after a complete investigation, it develops that the Falange is carrying on the same sort of activities in the United States that it pursues in Latin America, I propose that we instantly act to smash this Fascist offensive. I propose that in that event we send the Spanish legations packing on an early trip of the liner *West Point*.

The Click exposé is a timely warning. Let it not go unheeded.

It happens, Mr. Speaker, that I am familiar with some of the work of this magazine, and I think it is praiseworthy. I know of no publication which has been more consistently and sincerely opposed to nazi-ism or which has fought this blight upon civilization more relentlessly. Some months ago there was a documented article clearly setting forth the menace of Jan Bata, so-called Czech shoe king, a Hitlerphile, who is now on our South American blacklist. Later there were articles showing how the Nazis were extracting tribute from American industry, dealing chiefly with the Rohm & Haas Co. and the Schering Corporation. Another article which I recall exposed the vicious campaign against American Catholics waged by Hitler's minions here—now openly directed over the Berlin radio, I may add.

An enlightened and informed public is, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, democracy's first line of defense. I want to commend the editors of Click for their labors, for by their investigations and these articles they have made a real contribution to our national defense.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks and to include the text of this article.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There was no objection.

[The article referred to appears in the Appendix of today's RECORD.]