

More on Nixon's amiable relations with ex-Nazis

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WASHINGTON—President Nixon, who made his name in politics by attacking the Democrats for being "soft on Communists," is showing signs himself of a little softness on Nazis.

We recently reported that he invited an ex-Nazi to the White House for a prayer session and that he sent a letter of tribute to a notorious anti-Jewish editor.

The White House issued a pained public statement protesting that "President Nixon has never condoned and does not condone anti-Semitism in any form." We certainly agree. Nixon is no more anti-Semitic nor pro-Nazi than Harry Truman and Dean Acheson were pro-Communist.

But men with histories of Nazi sympathies have managed to endear themselves to the Nixon Administration. Here's the record, which is worse than we originally reported:

—We identified Dr. Joseph Pauco, a prominent GOP adviser and White House guest, as a pro-Nazi propagandist in Slovakia during World War II. We cited recent public statements to show that he still worships the memory of the Nazi puppet in Slovakia, Joseph Tiso. The Anti-Defamation League confirmed our charges with additional evidence from their files. The Republican National Committee quickly accepted Pauco's resignation. Yet at this writing, five weeks after our revelations, he is still an official, unsalaried adviser to Small Business Administrator Tom Kleppe. Pauco makes recommendations on small business loans and other SBA matters in his home state of Pennsylvania.

Warm tributes

—We reported that both President Nixon and Vice President Agnew sent warm tributes to Geno Szebedinsky, editor of the Hungarian-language newspaper *Magyarsag* which foams with anti-Semitism. Although the President wrote Szebedinsky that his "distinguished career . . . is well known to me," we are convinced Nixon had absolutely no knowledge of the editor's anti-Semitic reputation. Both Nixon and Agnew signed the tributes purely as political routine. Yet someone familiar with Szebedinsky and his views was close enough to the White House to arrange for him to be honored. And the White House, despite its public assurance that the President doesn't condone anti-Semitism, has yet to repudiate his letter to Szebedinsky.

—President Nixon not only prayed with Pauco at the White House but also invited another World War II extremist, Ivan Docheff, to the White House. Docheff acknowledged to us that he was the leader of the National Legion in his native Bulgaria. This was a youth organization characterized as "fascist" by the moderate Bulgarian National Committee here. Docheff admitted it was

a right-wing group but said he was "100 per cent anti-Communist, not a Nazi." Docheff's picture at the White House with Nixon and Agnew, printed in the Bulgarian-language paper "Borba", raised cries of outrage from moderate Bulgarian-Americans.

—Laszlo Pasztor, the industrious head of the GOP ethnic groups, was never asked about his wartime activities in Hungary by the four GOP officials who interviewed him

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for his job. As it happens, Pasztor belonged to a Hitler-youth-style group under the notorious Arrowcross party until he was 21. Although he never joined the adult party, he served it as a junior diplomat in Berlin under the vicious anti-Semitic Szalasi regime. Pasztor insists he never took part in anti-Semitic activities and says in his GOP party post, he has tried to weed out the right-wing extremists from the Republican ethnic groups. He spoke feelingly of those problems for two hours with my associate Les Whitten. At one point, Pasztor asked wearily: "What kind of guys did I inherit?"

HEADLINES AND FOOTNOTES

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