

Hitler propagandist adviser to GOP National Committee

WASHINGTON — A former Nazi editor, who was Adolf Hitler's leading propagandist in occupied Slovakia during the 1940s, has now become a power on the Republican National Committee.

He is Dr. Joseph Pauco, who trumpeted the Nazi line throughout Slovakia and hailed the Nazi persecution of the Jews. As late as 1957, he defended his past Nazi activities as "the cause of great and sacred truth."

Yet this notorious ex-Nazi was invited by President Nixon to attend a White House prayer service on Sept. 12. While no other White House worshiper may have been more in need of prayer, it is ironical that Pauco should wind up at a Nixon devotional. For his mentor and mahatma, Joseph Tiso, the puppet dictator of Slovakia, was hanged as a war criminal.

Hitler ended his bloody conquest of Czechoslovakia by dividing the country and installing Tiso as the ruler of Slovakia. Pauco was named editor-in-chief of Tiso's official organ, Slovak, which became the strident voice of the Nazi regime. In effect, Pauco became Slovakia's Joseph Goebbels.

One of Pauco's close associates in the Nazi hierarchy was Dr. J. M. Kirschbaum, who has been accused by the Jewish Community Council in Prague of sending Slovakian Jews to the gas chambers in Auschwitz and other murder camps.

Picture proof

Kirschbaum denies the charge. But we have dug out, at least, an old newspaper picture of Kirschbaum in his Slovak SS uniform, his hand raised in the Hitler salute.

Pauco and Kirschbaum escaped Tiso's fate by fleeing to the West. Pauco reached the U.S. in 1950; Kirschbaum got only as far as Toronto.

Eventually, Pauco took over the weekly newspaper, Slovak v Amerike, in Middletown, Pa., and named his old friend Kirschbaum as an adviser.

The natty, charming Pauco was brought into the Republican National Committee as chief Slovak-American adviser by the former chairman, Interior Secretary Rogers Morton. The present chairman, Kansas Sen. Robert Dole, appointed Pauco comptroller of the committee's ethnic council.

Pauco is also serving as a Nixon appointee on the Small Business Administration advisory council.

Meeting in Toronto

Not long ago, Pauco and Kirschbaum helped to establish the Slovak World Congress, and they held a meeting in Toronto in June. They were showered with greetings

you and your organization." He declared stirringly: "It is a common heritage that binds us together here today."

Then, with an oratorical flourish that must have caused Pauco and Kirschbaum to choke, Mardian added, "It matters not whether a dictatorship is Communist, fascist

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or Nazi—all dictatorships are without respect for liberty."

Mardian might have picked up a clue to Pauco's Nazi past by reading his biography in Who's Who. For Pauco lists among his accomplishments the editorship of the old Slovak daily. If this was missed by Mardian, it was picked up by an amateur Nazi hunter and Democratic party official, Bill Quinn, who identified the daily as a Nazi mouthpiece.

He tipped us off, and we have now traced Pauco's past in old Library of Congress records, books and newspapers.

"There is only one alliance, and that alliance is with Germany," wrote Pauco in a signed editorial on Sept. 17, 1944. Again on Oct. 11, 1944, he printed: "The great German Reich, led by Fuehrer Adolf Hitler, proved to the Slovaks its benevolence."

In a typical diatribe against the Jews, his Nazi newspaper declared on Sept. 3, 1944: "We all know about their moral decay and their murderous hatred of the Christian people."

Is it possible that Pauco, now 57, has changed his views after 25 years? As late as Auguste, while he was preparing to pray with the President, he praised the war criminal Tiso as a "martyr."

Footnote: My associate Les Whitten reached Pauco at Middletown. He denied that his wartime newspaper was a Nazi organ. "I ran a Slovak paper," he said. Asked about the paper's attack on the Jews, he said at first, "I can't remember," then declared: "We were friends of the Jews." He added heartily, "Anybody who says we were Nazis is full of baloney." The Republican National Committee, he said, would verify his good name. Kirschbaum has an unlisted telephone in Toronto and couldn't be reached.