

NEWS LETTER

Published by News Research Service, Inc., 727 W. Seventh Street, Los Angeles, California

Space permits only highlighting of news. More detailed information is available to serious Students and Writers.

Figures in Text indicate Reference Notes at end of Issue.

Volume V; No. 125
January 15, 1941

ANTI-DEMOCRAT DEMANDS CITIZENSHIP

Bundit Hans Diebel's fight for naturalization was far more than one man's battle for admission to United States citizenship. It was symptomatic insofar as it indicates to what extent and expense Americagerman Nazis -- although obviously impecunious themselves -- will go in order to crawl into the protecting folds of Old Glory. It also proves to what unending trouble and expense such men as Diebel ¹⁾ will put the United States Government bent on protecting the American people against ideological termites.




Reproduction of a photograph, taken April 30, 1939, with Schwinn delivering a speech. Diebel is seen standing in front, to the right, clad in Stormtrooper's uniform including Sam Browne belt. Background shows an American eagle atop the Stars and Stripes, framed by a border cunningly employing the swastika motif.

Diebel has been in charge of the Aryan Book Store ²⁾, located at the Los Angeles *Deutsches Haus*, 634 West 15th Street, since 1936. Until October, 1940, the store registered a total turnover of \$2,000 which, on the face of it, was insufficient to provide Diebel with a livelihood. In order to make ends meet, Diebel received his meals at the *Deutsches Haus*, and of afternoons would tend bar there. He never held any other position since he became a member of the Friends of the New Germany ³⁾.

On the other hand, Diebel accompanied ex-West Coast *Bundesführer* and de-naturalized citizen Hermann M. Schwinn ⁴⁾ in 1937 to a convention in New York, and also made a trip with him through the Northwest. On these journeys, Diebel wore the regulation Nazi Stormtrooper uniform. Off and on, he also acted as Schwinn's chauffeur. During these years, Diebel was a prominent member of the *Deutsches Haus* clique.

"Ick Shpreck Kein English"

Diebel's determination to obtain American citizenship was in direct contrast to his complete indifference to learning the language of the land to an extent where he need not speak it broken-


JULY 4th
INDEPENDENCE DAY RALLY

at the La Crescenta Picnic Grounds (Hindenburg Park)
Corner Honolulu and Duranore in La Crescenta

Free Will Contributions

| | |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">CHARLES ARTHUR PORTER "The Spirit of '76"</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Indian Chief "RED CLOUD" Spoken By "We Americans"</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">DAVID HALL JR. Editor HYPOCRISY Magazine "The March Ahead of Time"</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">ARNO RISSE U. A. UNIT LEADER</p> |

Grand Band Concerts Folkdances Dancing
Fun and Entertainment For Young and Old
Sweet Fruit And Refreshments

Admission Free Children Free

* * * * *

GERMAN AMERICAN BUND
FOR CONSTITUTION, FLAG AND A WHITE GENTILE RULED, TRULY
FREE AMERICA

Reproduction of Bund leaflet, addressed to "prospects" for a Fourth of July Rally at Hindenburg Park. As the self-explanatory text shows, this invitation is, as usual, overdressed with red-white-and-blue bunting.

nothing but another front for Nazi activities is borne out by a Dies Report, dated January 3, 1940, which refers to a convention of this letterhead organization as follows:

Cooperating groups.—The committee has found abundant evidence of the cooperation of certain other organizations with the German-American Bund. This is a more serious matter than is the direct strength or influence of the bund itself. For example, in August 1938 a so-called anti-Communist convention was held at the bund headquarters in Los Angeles at which Hermann Schwinn, leader of the bund on the west coast, was one of the principal speakers; and Arno Risse, bund leader, who has since fled the country, was one of the two or three persons most active in promoting and making arrangements for the convention. According to the testimony of Henry D. Allen, one-time Silver Shirt leader, organizer of the American White Guard, and prominent figure in Fascist circles generally, the following persons participated in this convention: Kenneth Alexander, Southern California leader of the Silver Shirts; J. H. Peyton, of the American Rangers; Chas. B. Hudson, of Omaha, Nebr., organizer and leader of America Awake, who accom-

panied General Moseley when he appeared before the committee; Mrs. Leslie Fry, alias Paquita Louise De Shishmareff, mysterious international figure who has since fled the country, then leader of the Militant Christian Patriots; representatives of Italian Fascist and White Russian organizations; and a number of others of similar point of view.

Bund literature mingled with that of William Dudley Pelley, Robert Edmondson, Mrs. Fry, and George Deatherage on the tables of this convention.

It is clear to the committee that this convention was in no real sense an anti-Communist convention but rather another of a series of attempts to unite some of the various forces of intolerance, racial hatred, Naziism and Fascism in order to achieve greater influence in the United States. This effort like others of its kind yielded no apparent results

ly. He came to this country as a young fellow of 22; despite living in the United States for eleven years, he never acquired a sufficient working knowledge of the English language. Possibly during those eleven years, Herr Diebel was too completely immersed in his political labors which, he tried to make the court believe, aimed at uprooting Communism in the United States.

In the course of the hearing, which lasted three days, Diebel never tired of repeating that he was fighting Communismand Communism only! However, at one juncture of the trial, Diebel was confronted with a handbill disseminated by the Bund. This particular leaflet was one of many similar dodgers, typical in general makeup of the sense of humor dispensed by such super-Nazi organs of hatred as the *Schwarze Korps*. The handbill was so vicious that it rated reprint in Julius Streicher's *Stürmer* 5), as was also shown in court.

In the face of such conclusive evidence testifying to Nazi-Bund affiliations, Herr Diebel was naturally very much embarrassed, but only for a few moments. Then, displaying a nimble wit despite his broken English, he drew attention to an annotation on the handbill to the effect that it was based on a resolution passed by the "Anti-Communist Federation of America"!

That this Anti-Communist Federation was nothing but another front for Nazi activities is borne out by a Dies Report, dated January 3, 1940, which refers to a convention of this letterhead organization as follows:

Birds of a Feather

Among Diebel's character witnesses was one Charles Arthur Porter. When first on the stand, he described Diebel as just an innocuous, rather unworldly, book seller; besides, Porter did his best to put as much distance as possible between himself and the Bund -- for the very good reason that he had actually been tied up with this Nazi organization. A picture was produced in court, showing Porter and ex-*Bundesführer* Fritz Kuhn 6) in a pose which

graphically told the story of their ideological affinity. Incidentally, this exhibit also bore out the fact that Porter, at one time or another, had taken a hand in Bund activities. For example, he made a speech (illustration on page 2) on "The Spirit of '76" at the German-American Bund's Fourth of July (1939) Rally at Hindenburg Park, La Crescenta, Calif.

Another character witness for Diebel was Kenneth Alexander 7), whose status as Southern California leader of the Silver Shirts was described in NEWS LETTER of April 4, 1940.

In the course of the trial, an extended wrangle ensued over the translation of the word *Volksgenosse* which is indigenous to Nazi terminology. Despite Diebel's exertion to put a nondescript literal translation on this swastika designation, Judge Campbell E. Beaumont eventually admitted that *Volksgenosse* actually had the meaning of "racial comrade", precisely as this term has always been used in NEWS LETTER.

Diebel fought the *Volksgenosse* translation so energetically because it formed one of the many links connecting him with the Bund. As to his affiliation with this acknowledged Nazi organization, Diebel asserted that he had been a member of the Bund, but only from July 1935 to 1936. Then he had been forced to resign from the organization for lack of American citizenship. However, in the face of this assertion, Diebel failed to explain why, as a non-member of the Bund, it had been possible for him to wear the prescribed Storm-trooper uniform. He affected this garb at all official Bund affairs, as proved by a photograph (illustration on page 1) put in evidence by the United States Government, and showing him at the Nazi Rally held in 1939.

Tag der Nationalen Arbeit
(Maifeiertag)

Am Sonntag, den 26. April 1936, Beginn 10 Uhr morgens
im „HINDENBURG PARK“
Dunsmuir und Honolulu Avenue, La Crescenta

Eine reichhaltige Festfolge wird von morgens bis abends die Gäste unterhalten

ANSPRACHEN: Dr. Gyssling, Deutscher Konsul
Hermann Schwinn
Hans Diebel

16 Mann Militaerkapelle
Preisschiessen

Chorgesang
Kinderspiele

KONZERT und TANZ

Echtes Muenchner Bier und Bratwuerste — Pflum Kueche und Keller

Kostenbeitrag 15 Cents Arbeitslos frei

VOLKSGENOSSE! KOMM ZU UNS. LASS UNS AUCH HIER IN LOS ANGELES DEN FEIERTAG ALLER SCHAFFENDEN GEMEINSAM FEIERN IM SINNE DER NEUEN DEUTSCHEN VOLKSGEMEINSCHAFT

EHRE DEN ARBEITER. SO EHRST DU DEIN VOLK!

Amerikadeutscher Volksbund (F.d.N.D.)
Deutsche Kulturgilde (D.K.V. Foerderbund)
Schuetzengesellschaft „Oberland“

ALLE GELDE BEWAHRUNG: HERR EMIL ROEDER, Sekretär der Bundverwaltung, Postfach 1000, Los Angeles, Calif. (Telefon: 4-1000)

Among similar photographic evidence introduced by the Government was another picture showing Diebel at target practice, the same which was published in NEWS LETTER in the issue of May 22, 1940. In this connection, it seems important to point out that Diebel, a non-citizen, contravened the law by having fire-arms in his possession.

At every point, Diebel tried to fight the Government's assertion that he was an important cog in the American-german Nazi machinery. Actually, he was so important in this organization that, after Fritz Kuhn had been sent to prison as a common thief, he had been in line for succession. His chances had been enhanced by the fact that, at that time, the Sword of Damocles of de-naturalization was hanging over Schwinn.

To what extent Diebel's activities had always been integrated with those of the Bund becomes especially evident from a handbill (illustration on this page), inviting prospects to "A Day of National Labor (May Day)". In a box,

Reproduction of handbill inviting prospects to A Day of National Labor (May Day) in 1936. (For verbatim translation of prominent box, see page 4) --- Note that handbill is signed by the Amerikadeutscher Volksbund, Deutsche Kulturgilde, Schuetzengesellschaft "Oberland", all organizations with which Diebel was admittedly affiliated.

prominently displayed on the handbill, the organizers reveal their aims by admitting (in verbatim translation):

Racial Comrades! (Emphasis by NRS) Come and call on us. Even here in Los Angeles, let us all together celebrate the holiday of all workers in the spirit of the New German Racial Community. Honor the Laborer. It is thus that you honor your people.

The handbill conclusively reveals Diebel's tie-up with the California Nazi powers-that-be by advertising him as fellow speaker of Nazi Consul Gyssling and the then West Coast *Bundesführer* Hermann Schwinn.

The Root of all Evil

In the course of the court proceedings, Diebel admitted that one of his activities, in connection with the Aryan Book Store, was the distribution of copies of "World Service" ⁸). In this way, by his own words, he explained why "World Service" -- one of the most efficient overseas Goebbels adjuncts -- should have "plugged" his Los Angeles Aryan Book Store, as revealed in NEWS LETTER of August 3, 1939. Diebel also admitted that his book store regularly received copies of the *Berliner Börsen Zeitung* ⁹). This is another of Goebbels' overseas adjuncts; the type of news it usually spreads over its front pages was displayed by reproduction, and analyzed in detail, in NEWS LETTER of December 7, 1939.

Whenever, in the course of the hearing, Diebel had an occasion to attack the moving picture industry, he would do so. He tried to make it appear as if he disapproved of Hollywood's film output merely because he is anti-Communist and anti-Jewish. However, it became perfectly clear from his repeated statements that what Diebel really resented about the movies was that they failed to be pro-German! Among complaints which Diebel voiced against Hollywood motion pictures were that they never portrayed a German as a true gentleman, and that this pictorial shortcoming caused him to regard Hollywood-made films as un-American.

Advisedly, Diebel exploited every chance to demonstrate in open court that Bundits and their fellow travelers are anti-Semites. This technique is generally employed by the Diebels as fly-paper to catch those who disapprove of Nazism but somehow find extenuating circumstances for it in the fact that Jew-baiting is a basic tenet of Hitlerism.

They overlook completely that anti-Semitism is the root of all anti-democratic evil.

N A Z I V I R U S D E F I E S Q U A R A N T I N E

Notwithstanding recent efforts to quarantine the Nazi virus to prevent increasing contamination of this country, Hitlerites are constantly exerting all their cunning to muscle their way into non-Nazi organizations, badly needed as "fronts" and jumping-off places for further ideological invasion. If anything, popular disapproval of, and official steps against, Nazi propoganda in the United States, are accelerating subversive activities carried on by Hitler minions in the USA.

NEWS LETTER of December 11, last, described how the Nazi-affiliated American Guards ¹⁰) tried to infiltrate the local Willkie Club. Undismayed by their striking failure in that particular case, Los Angeles Nazis continued their efforts to invade non-Nazi territory. Their latest *Blitzkrieg* was dir-

Somehow, the Nazi faction of the organization was tipped off, became alarmed and, in turn, mobilized its own forces for a counter offensive. Consequently, the lodge meeting was very well attended, and the whole arsenal of tricks, usually employed by Nazis to out-vote opponents, was brought into action. With sufficient support from their henchmen and members afraid to be found wanting in *Ja!* spirit, Dr. Gebhardt and Bruno Reinke actually succeeded in having their Nazi candidates nominated for Board of Directors. Fortunately, despite their strenuous efforts, all the swastika candidates were defeated.

Thus, at least temporarily, and as regards one single non-Nazified organization, the virus of Hitler infiltration has once more been clapped into quarantine.

GERMAN CONSUL REFUTES TALES OF NAZI ACTIVITIES

Denial that the German government has any connection, officially or otherwise, with the activities of the German-American Alliance or the Friends of New Germany Association was made yesterday in a statement issued by Dr. Georg Gyssling, German Consul in Los Angeles.

Dr. Gyssling's statement follows:

In respect to the trial of the suit contesting the election of officers of the German-American Alliance, I want to state that neither the German government nor the German National Socialistic party has any connections whatsoever, official or unofficial, with said organization or the Friends of New Germany.

Chancellor Hitler has made it clear several times that he not only disapproves of the spreading of any propaganda for National Socialism in foreign countries on the part of German citizens but that he will immediately have members of the German National Socialistic party excluded from his movement as soon as he hears of them being involved in such activities.

One of the foremost principles which members of the party going abroad are being told to observe is that they have to ab-

stain even from the appearance of mingling in politics in the broadest sense of the particular countries by criticising or praising National Socialistic ideas. German National Socialism is an exclusively German national affair and no article for exportation. We hope and think it to be only fair that in exchange foreign citizens should equally abstain from criticising German internal policy, which they in many cases understand just as little as German citizens understand the problems the United States government is facing.

I, furthermore, want to add that it is absolutely false that there exists in this country a class of German citizens and at the same time Americans "with divided loyalty, which is not only encouraged but actually recognized as such by the German government." A German who acquires American citizenship loses automatically by this very act his German citizenship and has to be exclusively loyal to his adopted country, just as we expect our citizens to be exclusively loyal toward Germany.

No American citizen or any other foreigner can become a member of the German National-Socialistic party.

Reproduction from Los Angeles Times of January 17, 1934. Story on this page.

Battles of Los Angeles

Since the Los Angeles metropolitan district is of enormous importance to the forces of Nazism, it has furnished a battleground over which Nazi and anti-Nazi forces have fought for almost a decade. NRS has records in its files covering the history of this struggle which first broke into the open in January, 1934, as the result of an election which the Nazi forces within the German-American Alliance (13) (now known as Federated German Societies of Metropolitan Los Angeles) won by the simple expedient of packing the meeting with representatives of letterhead organizations, that is, societies, clubs, and *vereins* of varied hue which actually have no membership but only lead a ghost existence by virtue of interlocking directorates. The manipulated election was then fought in court by non-Nazi members of the German-American Alliance. Called before Superior Judge Guy F. Bush, the case resulted in many an exciting scene, liberally sprinkled with threats of violence and vicious mutual recriminations (illustration on page 5). Eventually, because of

legal technicalities, the action was dropped.

In the course of the trial, the assertion was made that Reich Consul Gyssling was taking active part in the growing Nazification of the Los Angeles metropolitan district. This accusation brought a spirited answer from the Nazi consul (illustration on this page) who, at that time, boldly denied the existence of any connection between Americagerman Nazis and German officials. Meanwhile, this claim on the part of the Los Angeles Nazi Consul has been refuted time and again; that close and direct connections exist between German Consular officials and Bund members has repeatedly been shown and documented, especially in NEWS LETTER of November 9, 1939.

Emboldened by their victory over their non-Nazi opponents in the German-American Alliance, Hitlerites in due time intensified their efforts to annex additional anti-Nazi organizations. The audacity displayed in their invasions was all the more remarkable as these fellow-travelers of the Bund have been under close scrutiny ever since the inception of the Hitler Era. All through these eight years, they have used a variety of smokescreens, but their intent of infiltration remained the same.

It was first recognized and described by the Americanism Committee of the "Disabled American Veterans of the World War (DAV), Department of California", in a report rendered as early as the middle of May, 1934. Today, it is as timely as it was then, describing how, in July and August, 1933, members of the Americanism Committee were approached by Nazi agents who tried to capitalize on the fact that, by the passage of the Economy Act of 1933, some members of the DAV had become disgruntled. It was this core of discontent which the Nazis sought to exploit in order to worm their way into the confidence and the organization of the DAV.

The DAV Americanism Committee kept developments under close surveillance and, in its report of May, 1934, among other facts, spread the following on the record:

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>In carrying on this work, the Committee quickly learned that a great majority of German-American citizens were loyal to their American citizenship and that they deserved and should receive the cooperation of our Committee in their efforts to prevent these alleged Nazi agents from gaining control of various German American Societies. A conspiracy on the part of the Friends of New Germany to take over control of the German American Alliance became known to members of the Committee and this information was given in confidence to German-American leaders in advance of the election of officers to the German-American Alliance. Disclosures made to members of our Committee by these Nazi conspirators indicated</p> | <p>that they were chiefly interested in the office of Treasurer so that the funds controlled by the German-American Alliance, supposedly about \$30,000.00 might be controlled by them and for their purposes. As a result of the disclosures made their candidate for Treasurer, Mr. Herman Schwinn, (the present leader of the Friends of New Germany), was not elected. They did succeed in electing, however, certain other officers. Subsequently, several German-American organizations brought legal proceedings to contest the election and to have the admission of the Nazi organizations to the German Alliance declared illegal. These proceedings came up for trial in the Superior Court of Los Angeles in January, the trial lasting for two weeks. By this time, the Special Commit-</p> | <p>tee had completed its investigation, and at the request of those German-American organizations which were opposed to the methods of Nazi agents in America, members of the Committee agreed to testify in Court in regard to the purposes and objectives of the Friends of New Germany. The testimony offered by these witnesses, though technically inadmissible, was permitted in evidence by agreement between the attorneys and the Judge in order that publicity might be given to the nefarious activities of subversive foreign agents in Southern California. A great deal of publicity resulted and reports of the testimony offered by the members of this Committee were published in newspapers all over this country and in foreign lands as well.</p> |
|--|--|--|

The findings of the Americanism Committee of the DAV were subsequently confirmed in a report (dated December 3, 1937), submitted by Dr. John R. Lechner, Chairman of the Americanism Commission, Los Angeles County Council, American Legion. In his statement, Dr. Lechner emphasized that his report

demonstrates how the Nazi forces here in Los Angeles County have gained control of a huge organization (meaning the German-American Alliance) representing thousands of our good citizens of German extraction....With the advent of the Nazi regime, newer groups (of the German-American Alliance) have been formed, and a deliberate attempt has been made to control the entire Alliance by clever machinations in order to foster the Nazi program.

From their first attempt, shortly after the inception of the Hitler Era, until recently, when they ineffectually tried to worm their way into the local Willkie Club and the *Hermann's Söhne*, Los Angeles Nazis have never given up the idea of gaining control of non-Nazi organizations. These efforts are now accelerated because of the pressure of an adverse public opinion. Americagerman Nazis face the dire necessity of incessantly acquiring new "fronts". Their sole means to accomplish this is to muscle into non-Nazi organizations.

For additional information on names and facts, see NRS back issues as follows: 1)-#85; #36; #33; 2)-#112; 3)-#84; 4)-#114; 5)-#115; 6)-#116; 7)-#78; 8)-#112; 9)-#69; 10)-#119; 11)-#96; 12)-#116; 13)-2-8-39.