

May 2, 1941

Vol. 5 No. 149 June 4, 1941

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE * +

GREAR CHARTER STREET, N. Y. C. * NEW YORK CHAPTER * Plaza 3-5425 515 Madison Avenue

Gen. Robert E. Wood National Chairman

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Chester Bowles, Dr. A. J. Carlson William R. Castle Mrs. Bennett Champ Clark, Joint S. Cobb Janet Ayer Faithank John T. Flynn Bishop Wilbur E. Hammable Bishop Wilbur E. Hammable Gen. Hugh S. Johnson Gay Judson Flormet P. Kahan Former P. Kahan William R. Castle Florence P. Kahn Kathryn Lewis Alice Rooséveit Longworth Frank O. Lowden Hanlord MacNider Thomas' N. McCarter Ray McKaig Stellier, Morton Sterling Morton Kathleen Norris Kathleen Norris Amos R. E. Pinchot William H. Regnery Edward L. Ryerson, Jr. Louis J. Taber Mrs. Burton K. Wheeler Dr. George H. Whipple Major Alford J. Williams

Miltor Free American and Doutscher Wecklits und Boehachter 175 East 85th Street New York City

Dear Sir:

A copy of your newspaper his been mailed to me and any attemption called to an article in which you ask your readers to join the America First Committee. Let me say to you that not only does the America First Committee not solicit their membership, but that they are not alighble for membership. The America First Committee is against America's supervise of the second it supproves of the philosophy, the government, the aggression or the methods of Hitler's Germany, but because it wishes to protect this mation from involvement in Hurope's wars. We do not want in our organization men who support the philosophy of Hitler's government because we do not be-lieve them to be good Americans. The very first and one of the indispensable qualifications for membership in our organization, as stated in all our literature, is that it is not open to those who are members of the communist or fascist parties or the German bunds in this county or those representing any foreign power which country or those representing any foreign power which desires to involve us in this war.

May I suggest that you give this letter the same publicity in your newspaper as you gave to the article to which I have referred.

JTT:RNG

John T. Flynn

We print in full the above letter as per request of the writer thereof. We are American citizens of German origin, fighting only to be allowed the usual privilege of enjoying our rights as free men and women.

Because it is not the fault of the "America First Committee," that a false, slanderous, un-American stigma has been put on the German American Bund, we have no desire to see the "America First Committee" suffer from the undeserved reflection cast on the Bund by the chosen minority, who denounce the "America First Committee" as a pro-Nazi agency with the same degree of injustice that the Bund has had to endure in the past.

Nevertheless, we shall continue our fight against those who persecute American citizens of German stock in order to create a war fervor.

Editor.

Reproduction of letter from New York Chapter, America First Committee, addressed to Editor of Bund paper. The letter was published in The Free American, with an "Editor's Note", also reproduced above. NRS can state with authority that the letter is more camouflage and that cooperation continues between the America First Appeasers and the Bund.

DAY BY DAY, IN EVERY WAY, NAZI ISOLATIONISTS GROW BOIDER

Active cooperation between recognized Nazi organizations and their fellow travelers on one hand, and the so-called isolationist groups on the other, continues to flourish despite President Roosevelt's radio address on May 27. NRS herewith presents a day-by-day report on activities of peace-at-anyprice, Southern California organizations doing Hitler's dirty work:

SATURDAY, MAY 24th:

A meeting of the Young People's Group of the America First

Committee was held at 3142 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles headquarters of the Committee. Plans were discussed for a peace parade to be held if and when Senator Burton K. Wheeler comes to Los Angeles. Scheduled tentatively is an address by the Senator at a peace rally to be held at the Hollywood Bowl on June 4th. Definite arrangements are being held in abeyance, pending Senator Wheeler's decision as to what line of procedure to follow after the President's fireside speech.

Chief organizer of this parade is Frank J. Barry, Jr., a university student whose father, a Los Angeles attorney, is an active worker for the America First Committee, Young Barry reported, among other things, three significant items: (1) Volunteers (known Nazis) have offered their assistance in making signs for the parade, and

Page 2.

their help is greatly appreciated. (2) Bruce Tarkington Dowden -- a notorious Fascist agitator recently convicted in the Los Angeles courts for assault and battery and disturbing the peace -- will place at the disposal of the parade committee his fleet of freight trucks. Dowden, it will be recalled, fronted for F. K. Ferenz and other Nazis in a successful campaign to force the Los Angeles School Board to oust a teacher for spreading "British propaganda". In truth, as was told in NRS #136, Sam Evans, the teacher in question, exposed the nefarious activities of Nazi Fifth Columnists in Southern California. (3) The National Legion of the Mothers of America promised to enter a float in the parade, carrying coffins bearing the slogan: "Our Bundles from Britain".

SATURDAY, The most trusted members of the German-American Bund flocked this evening to the Los Angeles German House to welcome G. Wilhelm Kunze, successor to Fritz Kuhn as mational leader of the Bund. Kunze ordered his Stormtroopers to cooperate in every possible manner with the America First Committee and all other groups actively engaged in promulgating what is erroneously called "isolationism". He coached them, however, to keep secret the actual cooperation with such organizations, so as not to jeopardize the latter's standing in the eyes of other "good Americans".

Kunze's warning is of special significance because it reveals the true attitude of the Bund, which is not at all as stated in "The Free American", official publication on the Bund. On May 8th, that paper carried on its front page a letter (illustration on page 1) written by the New York Chapter of the America First Committee, which disavowed membership of Bund followers in its organization. The letter was written after the Bund paper had told its readers to join America First, causing the latter organization great embarrassment.

<u>SUNDAY</u>, An open forum program was broadcast in Los Angeles over radio station <u>MAY 25</u>: KFAC. Speaking in behalf of the appeasers was A. Dwight Nims, for

the America First Committee. In opposition, Marshall Stimson spoke for The Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies. The auditorium of the radio station was jammed with Nazis, due to previous instructions to be at the studio well in advance of the program. Orders were issued that all seats be taken up, and that the America First point of view be copiously spewed out by the audience over the station's facilities. For quite some time now, the Nazis have followed this practice on many radio programs where audiences are given a chance to air their opinions.

"Save America First"....for Nazism

<u>ال</u>

SUNDAY, Bundits went straight from the broadcast to attend the regular meeting of the "Save America First" organization, headed by T. W. Hughes, whose activities in favor of the Axis have been exposed by NRS, and whose meetings have been completely dominated by Nazis for months past. Barry, Jr. urged the younger element in the audience to affiliate itself with the

Young People's Group of the America First Committee, and Hughes endorsed the Barry boy's recruiting speech.

MONDAY, City editors of Los Angeles newspapers received mimeographed letters asking them to publish a pro-Nazi article, carefully camouflaged with isolationist argument. The letter bore no name, but gave the sender's address as 2509 West Seventh Street, Los Angeles. This is the place of business of F. K. Ferenz, well known to NRS readers as the notorious exhibitor of Nazi propaganda pictures in Southern California. (The original letter is in the NRS files.)

Simultaneously, Angelenos of German origin received a mimeographed German letter bearing neither name nor address of the sender. Comparison of this and the English letter sent to the press shows clearly that the stencil for the latter was cut on the same typewriter, and that it was mimeographed on the same machine, proving conclusively that this, too, is Ferenz' brainchild. The missive urges its recipient to write or wire to his Congressman, to Cabinet Members, and to President Roosevelt, demanding that America be kept out of war. The text of this letter also appeared on the editorial page of the *California Staats-Zeitung* of May 23, 1941 (illustration on page 4).

MONDAY, MAY 26: At 8:00 P.M., a meeting of the America First Committee was held at Richter's Cafeteria, 325 West Third Street, attended by a plentiful number of Bundits, Coughlinites and others of the same ilk. Among these was Ellis 0. Jones, founder of the National Copperhead Association (exposed in NRS #145). It was announced that Frank J. Barry, Sr. would address the meeting of the group scheduled for June 2nd. Barry père revealed his Nazi tendencies when he appeared on the same platform with Cathrine Curtis, at a rally held on April 2nd at the Los Angeles Philharmonic Auditorium. Miss Curtis is the national chairman of the National Legion of the Mothers of America, and her affiliations with Michael Ahearne and other high-powered Nazi propagandists who schemed to set up a Fascist form of government in the United States, were exposed in NRS #139.

Main speaker was Marshall Perrin, a man well thought of by the local Fifth Column, who demanded the impeachment of Secretaries Knox, Stimson and Hull, and proclaimed: "If a certain official does not change his views in a speech to be made very soon, we must demand his removal, tool" He referred, of course, to the anticipated radio talk by the President.

When Perrin's speech was concluded, mimeographed copies of a recent article by Drew Pearson and Robert Allen, authors of the "Washington Merry-Go-Round" column, were distributed (illustration on page 5). The article points out the activities of the America First Committee in its anti-war drive. Although the original text was written to discredit the Nazi affiliations of the America First Committee, it was twisted by those behind the scenes to show what has been accomplished in the attack on the administration, thus spurring to harder work the corps of appeasement writers. When this fact was brought to the attention of the ace Washington correspondents, they stated to NRS:

If the appeasement pack got any satisfaction out of our story, they are welcome to it. I fail to see how they would, but the ways of animals are inexplicable.

TUESDAY, In the morning, Nazis assembled in Municipal Judge Oda Faulconer's <u>MAY 27</u>: court to witness the trial of Bruce Tarkington Dowden, a frequent speaker for America First, who, on April 21st, engaged in fisticuffs with Dennis L'Heureux, an elevator starter, in the lobby of a downtown Los Angeles office building.

During the course of the trial, it was revealed that Dowden started an argument with L'Heureux because he wore an "Aid to Greece" button. Dowden called him a "dirty Britisher", whereupon L'Heureux complimented him by calling Dowden a Nazi. Testimony also indicated that Dowden, on previous occasions, had given vent to his strong pro-Nazi leanings and maligned the President in a manner worthy of Julius Streicher's *Stürmer*. The State brought charges of battery and disturbance of the peace against Dowden, and he was found guilty by a jury of twelve women. His attorney will make a motion for a new trial on June 11th.

Reproduced on page 4 is a picture of Dowden in fighting pose. Testifying for him as character witnesses were George A. Nusang and Larry Griffith, both well known Nazis. Nusang is a member of the American Honest Money Legion and sells Social Justice, Coughlin's Nazi sheet, at all subversive gatherings. Griffith is doing his bit to further the aims and objectives of "Save America First", the America First Committee, and all affiliated movements. Dowden had urged these and others to pack the court.



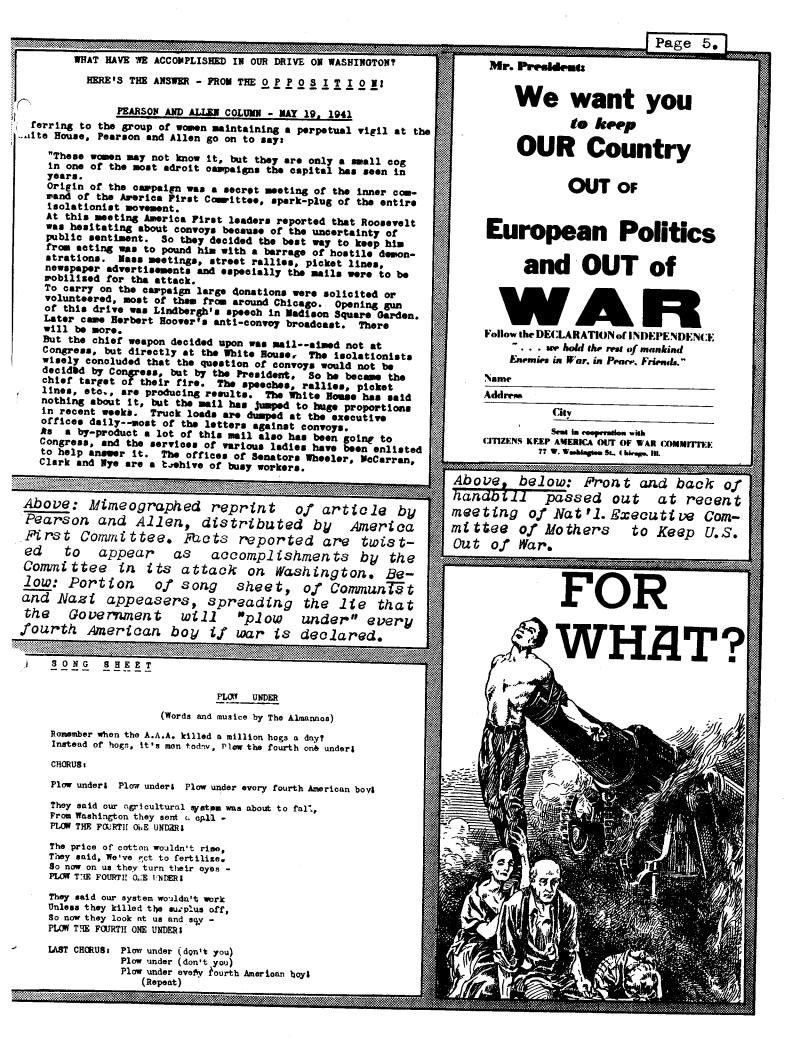
Steeler me

<u>ialbit</u>

21112

Burkey

D brought to Antwerp for return to the United States.



Page 6. (Cont. from page 3)

TUESDAY,
MAY 27:In the afternoon, a meeting was held at the Fifth Street Store, in
downtown Los Angeles, by the National Executive Committee of the
Mothers of America to Keep the United States Out of War. Main speak-
er was Dr. Albert W. Carlson, already well known to Los Angeles Hitler-heilers
through his appearance as a featured lecturer, on April 6th before the Hughes
organization, and by his frequent appearances as speaker for the America First
Committee. In his speech before the Mothers, he called President Roosevelt a
traitor and cried out for the need of a new party. He deplored the fact that
many Los Angeles store windows displayed British flags. This statement was
quickly answered by shouts from the audience, urging: "Let's smash the win-
dows!"

Petticoats on Parade

An important item of this meeting was the reading of a letter from Cathrine Curtis which reported that she had definite information that Rudolf Hess flew to England on a peace mission. According to Miss Curtis, Washington is doing its utmost to keep this information from the public. The Mothers' leader tied this in with the fact that while she was in Southern California, a consular representative had told her that peace negotiations between Germany and England were under way. In her letter she claims to have checked further on this when she returned to Washington, and that a Canadian government official admitted to her that peace conversations had started as far back as February. These plans are supposed to provide that England should do her utmost to involve America in war with Japan, while Germany and England would make peace and gobble up United States trade in South America and in other countries.

Obviously, advocates of a negotiated peace (on Hitler's terms) are extending themselves to corral big American export firms by spreading talk that Britain is trying to capture both our foreign and native markets. Typical is a statement made on the floor of the House on May 28th, by Congressman Frank B. Keefe of Wisconsin, who declared that he had found proof of Britain's motives. The Los Angeles Examiner of May 29th (illustration on page 4) gave this story from Washington a special build-up. Promptly the local Nazis used it as additional bait to get support from large business firms, and are using the article as further ammunition in their anti-Democracy campaign.

Another letter, this one from Senator Wheeler, was then read to the Mothers. It urged all to write to Senators and Congressmen in Washington, asking if they were for or against an immediate, negotiated peace. Wheeler stated that such queries would put the Representatives on the spot; i.e., if they were still against such a peace, it would prove them to be warmongers.

Literature was distributed to the audience. One pamphlet (illustration on page 5) released by the "Citizens Keep America Out of War Committee" of Chicago, features a picture of coffins over which American flags are draped. It is captioned: "Bundles from Britain -- Keep American Boys Out of Another Picture Like This". Mothers were asked to send this Nazi-inspired leaflet to the President with the signatures affixed.

Another handbill (illustration on page 4) distributed at the meeting was printed by the "We, The Mothers, Mobilize for America, Inc." of Chicago. This leaflet shows a young man tied to the mouth of a cannon, ready to be sacrificed to the gods of war. The caption reads, "For What?" The text states, in part:

An American mother asks you to look thoughtfully at the picture on this folder. This is in truth my son, built with my flesh and blood, nourished and cared for -- physically and spiritually -- through years of sacrifice and devotion.

TUESDAY, In the afternoon, the National Legion of the Mothers of America, <u>MAY 27</u>: headed by Frances Sherrill, heard a talk given by Dr. Richard F. Carlyle, well known for his statement that a Nazified Europe cannot affect America. Carlyle had appeared on May 12th before the Curtis group in Pasadena.

At this session, it was reported by one of the active members that G. Allison Phelps was removed from local radio station KMTR. The unanimous feeling was that "it is our duty to bring pressure to bear on the radio station officials to reinstate G. Allison". Phelps is known in Southern California as an accomplished rabble rouser who employs typical Nazi propaganda tactics in his harangues. Incidentally, with an eye to the future, Phelps revealed recently his ambitions to represent Southern Californians in Congress. This is a typical Nazi technique of restoring radio facilities to a discredited mouthpiece.

Cavalcade of Appeasers

TUESDAY, In the evening, the Young People's Group of the America First Com-MAY 27: mittee met again. Present were such well known Bundits as the four Van Meter brothers, infamous as Stormtroopers, printers of literature and photographers for the Bund; James McBride, who recently began organizing a Los Angeles group whose job it would be to terrorize the population when "der Tag" arrives; Ellis 0. Jones of the Copperheads; and many others identified with subversive groups. Plans were announced by William Dodson, secretary of the Los Angeles Branch of the America First Committee, to set up a propaganda division for the young people. Duties include the arrangement of parades, public street meetings, and motorcades. These caravans, consisting of automobiles bearing isolationist and appeasement slogans, are to be used mainly in outlying Los Angeles districts. If, for example, an America First meeting is held in Pasadena, followers from nearby cities are expected to drive to Pasadena in unending cavalcades. The underlying motive is to make it appear that America First has a much greater following than is actually the case. This recalls the days of the Ku Klux Klan, when a single lodge was sent on tour through the country, to inject itself into locality after locality in order to create the impression of nation-wide Klan strength.

Songs were chanted by those present, among them "Plow Under". This song originated with the Communists. (Two days later, when the American Peace Mobilization held a "Peace Rally", it was also sung. Attendants were given a mimeographed song sheet, containing the text as reproduced on page 5.)

The meeting of the Young People's Group ended with a discussion of the President's fireside talk. Statements were voiced that "we will carry on with the program of America First until they close us up by the use of force".

<u>WEDNESDAY</u>, Senator Wheeler's statement in Indianapolis concerning the Pres-<u>MAY 28th</u>: ident's speech was immediately adopted as their own by his Southern California followers. He said: "The President talks about fear. He himself has preached the hymn of hate and fear more than anyone in the United States, ever since March 4, 1933."

What the isolationists failed to acknowledge was that they themselves use the element of fear to gain their own ends, as is evident in the two handbills distributed at the Fifth Street Store meeting.

THURSDAY, <u>MAY 29th</u>: In the afternoon, the Women's Activities Group of the America First Committee met at headquarters. Among those present were Mrs. Blanche Duquette (alias Mrs. Day) who is a sales agent for Cough-

lin's Social Justice; and Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Pilzer, who were among the founders of the Friends of New Germany. Chairman of the meeting was Mrs. J. Henry Orme. a co-worker of Mrs. Faith McCullough. The latter is known as Mrs. Leslie Fry's former secretary. Her Nazi activities, and Mrs. Fry's direct connection with the German Propaganda Ministry, were exposed in NRS #35.

Featured speakers were Mrs. Sherrill, leader of the National Legion of the Mothers of America, and Dr. Carlyle. In her speech, Mrs. Sherrill concentrat-

Page 8.

ed on stimulating fear among her listeners, stating that soon all women will be mobilized for war. She reported that flag manufacturers in the East have stopped making American flags and are now making "Union Now" banners.

Dr. Carlyle did his share to instill more fear by proclaiming that "all of us, who dare to oppose the President, will find ourselves in concentration camps". He pleaded for unification of all movements which "work along the same lines as we do". Carlyle's attitude can best be described by quoting him verbatim:

If we enter the war, those responsible will answer for it. They will not answer to the Justice of the Supreme Court, but to a self-appointed tribunal of the people, and proper punishment will be meted out to them. You may be sure of that.

THURSDAY, In the evening, the regular America First Committee meeting was <u>MAY 29th</u>: held at the headquarters. Dodson, presiding, called President Roosevelt's speech "un-American", and accused him of lying to the

people. Dr. Carroll Sibley, who stated that he holds a commission in the Reserve, demanded that the people of America be given a chance to vote whether or not America should declare war. It was announced that Senator Wheeler and Charles A. Lindbergh would soon be in Los Angeles and would probably speak at the Coliseum.

Among those present were such well known Bundits as the James McBride family, the Van Meter brothers, and the Pilzers. Also there were Ferenz and his associate, Miss Grotan; William P. Williams, a Los Angeles high school teacher who preaches subversivism to his pupils; Roy Chase, a Bund sympathizer who is responsible for many threatening letters to people who dared voice criticism of National Socialism; Jones, founder of the Copperheads; Nellie McCray, Coughlin follower and rabble rouser. The meeting closed with a recording of a recent speech by Lindbergh.

THURSDAY, The American Peace Mobilization, now the most active Communist MAY 29th: front, held a mass meeting at the Embassy Auditorium, which is

where the Hughes "Save America First" group meets. Details of the American Peace Mobilization's activities will be given in an early issue of NEWS LETTER.

The foregoing day-by-day report of cooperation between recognized Nazis, Hitler apologists, appeasers, and so-called "isolationists", speaks for itself. However, the best demonstration of the political tendency of the followers of these groups can be obtained by personal observation at their meetings.

The cat-calls and boos from the audience when names like Roosevelt, Hull, Churchill or Eden are mentioned; the tremendous applause accorded statements endorsing a "New Europe"; the cheers when orators tell their listeners that "what is going on in Europe does not affect us" -- all will convince anyone that he is surrounded by people, most of whom would turn Quisling at the opportune time. The oft-voiced statement that "soon we will not be permitted to assemble in this manner and speak our minds" indicates that they realize that their activities border on treason.

This expose of the Los Angeles Fifth Column in action could be duplicated in every important city in the country. It is published in the hope that the schemes of the local Quislings in every community will be similarly exposed, to clear public gaze. Only then will local apathy be aroused to effective counter efforts against internal dissension and disunity.