

IS AMERICA GOING FASCIST?

"NATIONALIST" LABEL CALCULATED TO DECEIVE THE CARELESS AND UNWARY

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FORMER ANTI-CATHOLIC SILVER-SHIRTER SMITH (ABOVE) IS THE SELF-APPOINTED HEAD OF THE NEWLY-FORMED "NATIONALIST" MOB, HAVING SUCCEEDED EX-SENATOR ROBERT RICE REYNOLDS

“WHEN fascism comes to America,” Louisiana Kingfish Huey Long once said, “It will come wrapped in the American flag as 100 percent-pure Americanism.”

Huey Long was right. No U.S. fascist, of course, would ever call himself that. Too many Americans fought and died in a war against the fascist governments of Germany, Italy and Japan for the term ever to become popular in this country.

Nor, according to famous Army Orientation Fact Sheet No. 64, would “any fascist attempt to gain power here follow precisely the Hitler pattern. It would operate under the guise of ‘super-patriotism’ and ‘super-Americanism.’”

Thus, while most Americans are occupied with problems of reconversion, price control, full employment and creation of a foreign policy that would make for enduring peace, events are taking place which may well have a sinister significance.

Individuals who secretly hoped Hitler would be triumphant over the democracies, are calling themselves “Nationalists.” The word is being adopted by all types of anti-democratic outfits.

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Eastern city dwellers who belonged to the Christian Front, Southerners who made a fetish of white supremacy, Mid-westerners who saw bearded Russian bombthrowers under every bed, Far-Westerners who called Jews and Catholics children of the devil, all are becoming "Nationalists."

Differing radically among themselves on other issues, prohibitionists, German-American beer-drinkers, Catholics, Protestants, cultists, rich people, poor people, white collar clerks and farmers are finding common ground, neverthe-



Flaming 100-foot high cross (above) marked the close of Freeport (N.Y.) Ku Klux Klansmen's first annual celebration. Hailed by 5,000 Klansfolk, sight was visible for miles.



Daughter Jane accompanies Elizabeth Dilling to Washington (D.C.) court for trial as one of 30 alleged seditionists charged with conspiring to overthrow Government.

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less, in their mutual hatred of a religion, a race or a color. More than 1,000 fungoid fascist "Nationalist" organizations of all types and sizes already have sprung up from Maine to California.

Some, obscure in origin, are obviously promoted by individuals, others, well-financed, publish "hate sheets" with widespread circulations. (One such misanthropic paper, published by fanatical Court Asher, recently editorialized: "Democracy? It stinks!")

Local memberships range from 100 to a million. Stated programs are generally confused and deliberately vague, but basic objectives remain the same: to set minority against minority, and create political confusion which will enable an as yet unrevealed "man on horseback" to organize them all into a vast "Nationalist" movement calculated to play a persuasive role in the 1948 Republican and Democratic conventions.

Sparkplug of the countrywide "Nationalist" movement is head America Firster Gerald L. K. Smith, undisputed leader of the more rabid "Nationalists" since the decline of Ex-Senator Robert Rice Reynolds.

Reynolds made a big splash in 1945 with his *National Record* and "Nationalist" Party, but folded when it was charged he was using Joe McWilliams, New York rabble-rouser under indictment for sedition, to solicit funds from industrialists.

"Nationalists" Making Play For Veterans

Within the last 18 months Smith has consummated important alliances, notably with "Ham-and-Eggs" pension-plan promoters—who once attracted more than a million votes for their funny-money scheme in California—and with Fundamentalist minister-groups in the Midwest and Far West.

Smith has been supported enthusiastically by such worthies as Elizabeth Dilling (also indicted for sedition), who publicly rejoiced at the death of President Roosevelt, and the late Carl Mote, Indiana utilities executive, who posed as a grass-roots farmer. Like all pro-fascist organizers, Smith has made a particular play for veterans and, along with other enterprises, runs an energetic proselytizing outfit called the Christian Veterans of America.

He has cemented alliances with Ku Klux Klan leaders and kindred terrorist organizations, with John Scott of *Money* and other moneybugs, with former German-American Bund leaders, with the Silver Shirts and the American Vigilantes.

Ardent partisan of Father Coughlin, Smith works in close cooperation with former top Christian Fronters (although as a member of the Silver Shirts he preached vitriolic diatribes against the Catholic Church).

He has entrée to the offices of a dozen congressmen, maintains friendly contacts with important publicists, employs scores of people, publishes a book-paper monthly magazine (*The Cross and the Flag*), runs a news service for the vermin press and thrives on publicity, favorable or otherwise.

He is continually making speeches; and pro-democratic organizations, especially the American Veterans' Committee, have sought to express their displeasure whenever he hits a town. The problem of how to do it has plagued liberals no end. Smith has a knack of making capital out of opposition, and is adept at posing as a martyr to the cause of free speech.

Long-memored Americans were aghast at Smith's "suppression" by St. Louis police last May. They recalled Adolf Hitler's similar "suppression" by the police of Hindenburg's Reich.

It was the custom of the German police, in banning a Nazi meeting, to prohibit also meetings called by Hitler's democratic opponents. While Hitlerites complained vociferously that they were being victimized, the too-easily appeased liberal democrats would return complacently to their homes, satisfied that Hitler had not been allowed to hold his meeting.

An identical situation occurred when St. Louis police prohibiting the Smith meeting, simultaneously dispersed an American Veterans' Committee mass meeting, where thousands of veterans had gathered to hear the Friends of Democracy's National Director L. M. Birkhead expose the menace of Smith's brand of "Nationalism."

Convinced they had broken-up the Smith meeting, the veterans quietly went home. Meanwhile, Smith was permitted to address the crowd in front of the Municipal Auditorium, foamed at the "Red" conspiracy against him.

Agitation Centers Number More Than 1,000

The fascist spearhead present in St. Louis that night in May was hardly indicative of the full political strength already marshaled by Smith and his cohorts. While 68 leading organizations were represented, the number of agitation centers actually includes more than 1,000. Thirty-six potently fascist organizations have been formed in 17 states and the District of Columbia since January 1946.

An outstanding analyst of contemporary homefront fascism estimates that 25 million Americans are being reached, directly or indirectly, by the very type of propaganda which enabled Hitler to seize Germany.

The German War Veterans, for example, is centered around the leadership of former Nazi Bundsters and Steuben Society members who served in the U.S. Army. It hopes to unite veterans of German-American origin. In some areas, this outfit is also after the allegiance of pro-fascist elements in Italian communities and other national groups.

A sinister development is the use of the word "relief" as a mask for Nazi activities. Just as subversive pre-Pearl Harbor and wartime organizations masqueraded as "America First," "Christian" or "patriotic" societies, currently-stylish camouflages feature a "relief" or "humanity" tag. Behind high-sounding organization-names, German propagandists are working openly for a soft peace for Germany. They insist that Germany be rebuilt into a base of military operations against the Soviet Union.

The outstanding agency in this field is American Relief for Germany, Inc., which has more than 40 branches. At its organization meeting in Chicago, men-



Swastika-daubed house bricks crashed through seven Chicago plate-glass show-windows of Jewish-owned stores. Owner Pollack (*above*) exhibits missile behind shattered glass.

tion of Gen. Eisenhower's name brought loud boos from a huge audience (*SEE*, September 1946).

ARG's national executive secretary helped manage the unsuccessful Congressional campaign of Charles Anderson, violent America Firster and sponsor of Chicago's so-called "Gentile Cooperative League," momentarily engaged in a snide attempt to promote a boycott of Jewish-owned stores.

The Steuben Society, ARG's principal New York backer, has asked its branches to get behind the "relief" drive and organize themselves to vote as a German bloc in the coming elections.

Since the President's War Relief Control Board has failed to issue the necessary license, ARG is unable to send funds abroad. The group is engaged nevertheless in a nationwide money-raising campaign and has announced that the proceeds will be turned over to the Society of Friends for distribution abroad. The peace-loving Quakers thus threaten to become the innocent cat's paw for a reviving Nazi-like political group astutely disguised as a relief enterprise.

The first fiery cross to appear since prior to World War II was set ablaze last October on Georgia's Stone Mountain. The occasion, according to Grand Dragon Dr. Samuel Green, was the initial postwar gathering of the Association of Georgia Klans.

The hooded order is not limited to the South, however, but has chapters in New York's fashionable Westchester and is riding high in California, considered especially ripe for serious racial difficulties because of the tremendous influx of white and Negro warworkers from the South. After World War I, a similar situation facilitated the Klan's spread to the northern states.

Congressman Wood Not Alarmed By K. K. K.

The resurgent Ku Klux Klan's activities, incredibly, have found support in Congress: Chairman John Wood, of the controversial Wood-Rankin Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, characterized "the threats and intimidations of the Ku Klux Klan" as "an old American custom . . . just like illegal whiskey-making."

The Federal Government, fortunately, takes a different attitude toward the Klan. Shortly before Congressman Wood's statement, the U.S. Collector of Internal Revenue, filed suit in Atlanta for back income taxes of \$685,305, which the Government claimed were due and owing from the Ku Klux Klan for the years



Investigator examines charred cross set afire on lawn of University of Southern California chapter of the Zeta Beta Tau (Jewish) fraternity. "KKK" was painted on housefront.

1921 through 1924.

Governor Ellis Arnall of Georgia ordered the state's legal department to institute ouster proceedings on the grounds that the Klan's charter was invalid, since it was neither a nonprofit corporation nor a bona fide fraternal organization, and that it engaged in political activity and violated the state's criminal laws.

California's attorney-general arrested four Klan officials, charged them with operating illegally for the past 10 years. When the court declared the Klan officially dead in that state, its ex-Kleagle tenderly folded his costume before handing it over.

"Handle it carefully," he admonished the clerk. "It is sacred to me."

The fact that the Ku Kluxers in Georgia are rabid anti-Catholics, while Jew-haters in New York call themselves Catholics, does not imply any essential difference between them. Ku Kluxism and Christian Frontism are two sides of the same coin, and there's just one word for both—fascism.

American fascism is on the increase, although it has not yet become a serious threat to democratic government; the various groups working toward fundamentally the same end are still too disorganized, and no real "strong-man" has come along to weld them into one great mass party.

But they are ceaselessly striving to build their strength, while spreading their poison and awaiting a time when national discontent offers them an opening—perhaps during the next great depression, if it comes. Many are drilling and equipping their own strong-arm squads, just as Hitler drilled and equipped his brownshirts. Some use violence regularly; all countenance it.

But "Nationalist" fascism can still be licked if we remember that "Nationalist" as used by hatemongers means "fascist," and by remembering:

Not to sneer at all "foreigners!"

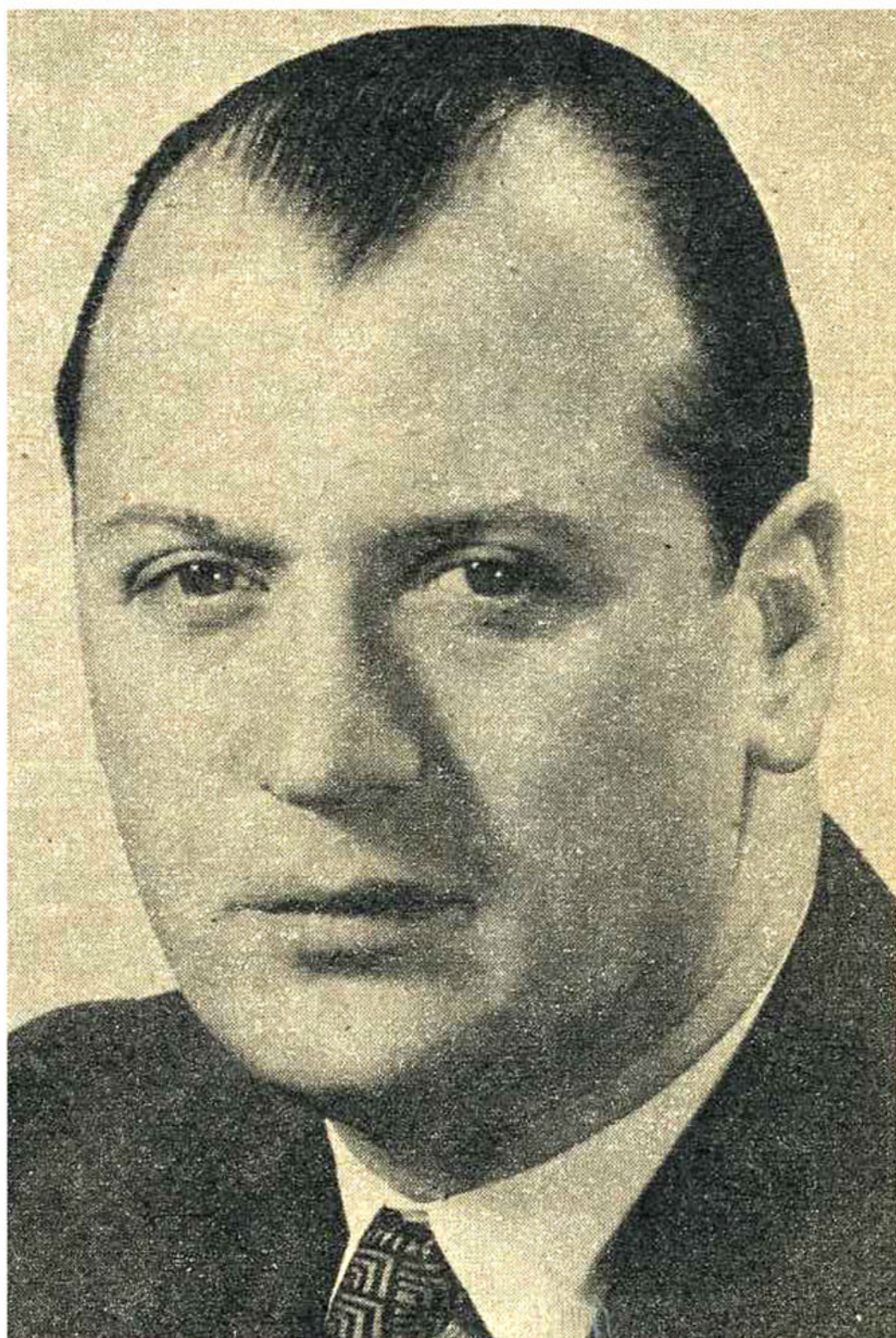
Not to make nasty remarks about, or discriminate against Jews, Negroes and other minorities!

Not to call everybody "Communist" who doesn't agree that Hoover was the greatest president in U.S. history!

Not to say the rest of the world can go hang, for all we care, and that any country which doesn't see eye to eye with us should be "atomized!"

And above all else, not to permit any one to destroy our faith in democracy!

(Continued)



JOHANNES STEEL has battled fascism here and abroad for 15 years. In 1932, he left New York for Germany in a vain attempt to organize last-minute resistance against Hitler. Returning to the U. S. in 1934, he began long fight to convince Americans that fascist war of aggression was imminent.

SEE

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