Nazi Activities in U. S. Bared

German-Americans Forced to Drill for Army Duty in Old Country

By EARL GODWIN

WASHINGTON. — The destructiveness of the Russian Bolshevik propaganda is more or less recognized, but sooner or later congress and the executive branch of the government must crack down on the impudent German attempt to propagate the Nazi hatred of religion and love of war in this country. Congress investigated the matter slightly in the last session, but it is rife again, and Representative Dickstein of New York, a member of the previous congressional committee on un-American activities, reminds the government that Germany has gone so far as to utilize social organizations here for military drill purposes—and is calling on German-Americans to reply to a questionnaire as to whether or not they are available for military service. A copy of the questionnaire has been printed in the Congressional Record.

This is a Hitler attempt to militarize as many Americans of German blood as he can find; and whether an American citizen or not, the man with German blood will be told by the German consul that he owes his allegiance to Hitler. This amazing impudence goes to the extent of the German government apparently believing that even if a man is born in the United States, if he has German blood he should rush forward to help the present German government if need be.

German propaganda carries with it the idea that Nazism is fighting Communism; hence the United States of America should be interested. The trouble is that Nazism in Germany is anti-Christian, anti-democratic and a complete enslavement of the individual. The present German type of government looks on the government of the United States as half-witted. Moreover, this present German government is as arrogant in its disregard of international decencies as the Kaiser's government was. Splendid as we know the German character to be here in America, the diplomatic and military Germans of the old country are completely ruthless in their attitude toward their own aims. There is collossal impudence in the fact that there are between ten and twenty thousand Germans drilling for Nazi military purposes in this country, equipped with German uniforms and information. German-Americans in the East are being hounded by German consuls; being browbeaten into German uniforms which they utilize in social clubs—much of it is under threat and compulsion. Germans here have relatives in Germany — and the American-Germans are ordered to "come across" or something may happen to the folks in the Fatherland.

All this is distinctly nauseating. This government knows it. Sooner or later there will be a clean-up, but there's a lot more to it. The world is facing a show down soon—with true Democracies on one side and the dictatorships of Communism, Fascism and Nazism on the other. Roosevelt hints of this horrendous world war every now and then—and hopes to keep us out of it as far as possible. But allied to us in ideals of religious and political freedom are England, France—and smaller countries like Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Switzerland. Of course the South American republics are nominally democratic—and they are clinging to the good old United States of America — but German and Italian influences are at work on some of these South American neighbors; and they may have to be attended to with a big stick. The point I want to make is that while our present position is strictly neutral in European matters, while we cannot lend money to Europe until and unless they make satisfactory arrangements to repay us the war debts—where would the freedom of the whole world be if the dictators started war upon France and England and the little European countries? England and France would need our help. What would America's position be?

* * *

FLOOD CONTROL.

Now comes the flood control politician in all his glory! Every time the country is visited with a devastating ruin by river, members of congress from the stricken areas pile billion dollar flood control bills high on the desks of the Vice President and Speaker in congress—and nothing comes of them but floods of talk.

Floods bring forth proposed remedies of several sorts; one group wants the floods prevented by planting trees on the mountain sides where lumbering operations have denuded the hills and allowed rains to pour down into the streams; another group favors small ponds to collect excess waters at the heads of streams; another group wants dams along the rivers; another wants the extension of huge levee systems, retaining walls to channelize the greater rivers and keep back the rising waters; still another group wants a series of vast reservoir lakes into which the rising waters can flow and thus relieve the water courses of their great burden.

We need all of these in one unified plan. For more than sixty years the river courses, Mississippi and Ohio particularly, have been at the mercy of rains resulting in fifty-five floods, each one of which has brought disaster and prolonged agitation for flood control. I might say parenthetically that the army engineers have complete plans for flood control, but after the agitation dies congress, the legalizing agency, apparently forgets a unified scheme and gives money in a scattered disjointed manner. For a brief moment last spring congress saw a vision of unified flood control for the Mississippi valley and O. K.'d the spending of $592,000,000 for 200 projects in 40 states containing streams feeding the Mississippi in the upper half and for dikes, etc., in the lower valley. I said congress O. K.'d the plan; but it forgot to appropriate the cash. Of course, scattered flood control operations are going on all the time—but what we need is a unified, nation wide, long range operation which includes everything necessary—from replanting the denuded hillsides to dams and levees and reservoirs to take up the floods in the larger streams. Deep down in the President's plan for reforming the governmental functions is a place for a national planning board to plan the use of government resources. That's what is needed; and that's what the congress will have to act on this session.

Present great example of how a unified plan prevents floods comes to light in the vast Tennessee Valley Authority work along the Tennessee river. From mountain top to river bed the engineers have worked out a plan—and there is no flood menace on the Tennessee river. Two dams on the Tennessee have cut down the flood stage of the Ohio river at Paducah by a foot. These two dams, the Joe Wheeler and the Norris Dam hold back one hundred and forty-five billion gallons of water, saving Chattanooga alone $750,000 by preventing the flooding of a thousand acres of city property with a population of 5,000. Last year the holdback at Norris dam cut down the flood waters at Chattanooga by four feet.

When the work on the Tennessee river is completely finished by the TVA—greatest government power and conservation enterprise ever undertaken anywhere — the flood crest on the Mississippi will be reduced by two feet. Not only dams to hold back excess water, but there is tremendous replacement of soil on the slopes and mountainsides. Eroded soil which shed rain into the river by the million gallons has been covered with grass and other crops, which absorbs the rainfall instead of shooting it into the river to make floods.

The whole development in the TVA will prevent forty-four out of every hundred gallons of rainfall from passing immediately into the streams. In wet weather the excess water is impounded behind the dams in billion gallon lots, and in dry weather this water is released.

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GRAND TUG-OF-WAR.

Behind the scenes in Washington a grand tug-of-war is going on between the proponents of the old time method of financing home-owning and the new, stream-lined method which does away with the second mortgage and the special fees involved in the age-old struggle to finance a home. The struggle centers on the administration's desire to extend the life of the Federal Housing Administration, which has already helped a million people to buy homes and is responsible for many more than that number repairing and repainting old homes that were run down at the heels.

The "FHA," as we call it here, helps you to buy a house with one mortgage only, to be paid off monthly like rent—with no trick fees or charges anywhere. The loans are made chiefly through ordinary commercial banks. If you buy a ten thousand dollar house you put up $2,000 cash, and your bank lends you $8,000, while the United States government through FHA stands behind the transaction and insures the bank against losing any part of that $8,000, which may be paid off over a period of twenty years. There need never be any further financing—no second mortgages with their heavy fees and refinancing charges. The FHA power to help in this way expires June 30. It must be extended by congress.

Certain building and loan associations have cut down their interest charges, but there are large sections of the building and loan business, also many old time nine and ten percenters, second mortgage bankers, etc., who don't like the FHA policies; don't like the idea of losing all that business, who are being blamed by administration officials with conducting a powerful lobby against further extension of FHA. If the FHA does not insure these individual home purchasers the commercial banks will not handle the loans, and home building will again have to be financed on the old time two-mortgage plan, with its attendant heavy fees.

President Roosevelt, I am informed, is exceedingly anxious that FHA continue, and that in addition there be a widespread adoption of the one-mortgage plan of financing ordinary town and city houses.

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Wheat in 1611

One of the first things done by the early American colonists and settlers was to start growing wheat. It was sown in the Jamestown Colony as early as 1611 and at Plymouth, Mass., soon after 1621.

Largest Butterfly

The largest species of butterfly is the female of the genus ornithoptera, native in the Philippines, Java and Dutch Indies. Their wing expanse is [illegible] eight inches.

Gales

At 40 miles an hour the wind becomes a "moderate gale." A "fresh" gale has a velocity of 45 miles or above; a "strong" gale 50, and a "whole" gale 60.

Oldest Piece of Furniture

The oldest known piece of furniture in the world is the throne of the Egyptian Queen Hetshepsu, which is preserved in the British museum. It is known to be more than 3,000 years old.

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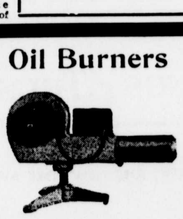
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