

overwhelming majority of 987 to 183, of the demand for the payment of adjusted compensation certificates—the bonus—with cancellation of accrued interest, and a refund of interest on funds already borrowed by veterans. Thus did the rank and file revolt at last and smash through the hypocrisy of Legion leaders, who tried in every way to prevent the passage of the resolution—which would bring some relief to the families of destitute veterans.

**B**UT there was another side to the convention's activities. It called on the Administration to rescind the recognition of the U.S.S.R. It demanded

stricter national legislation for the control and deportation of aliens. It recommended that radical publications containing "subversive propaganda" be denied the use of the mails. It favored the denial of political rights to the Communist Party in every state (in spite of the affirmation of "political neutrality" previously mentioned). It opposed the granting of home loans and farm loans to non-citizens. It listened to the balderdash of H. C. Fremming, president of the Oil Field, Gas Well and Petroleum Workers of America, who personally represented William Green, and assured the Legion convention that the A. F. of L. felt a community of interest

with them and would work hand in hand "to stem the rising tide of Communism and all other isms." And finally it went on record for a "Universal Service Law," which is a measure of preparation for war and a step toward Fascism. These reactionary resolutions were passed because the rank-and-file, though it broke with the leadership on the bonus, still accepts the leadership in its politics; and the ruling group of the Legion is the spearhead of American Fascism. The newly elected national commander, Frank N. Belgrano, is a San Francisco insurance president. He is said to "bear a strong resemblance to Mussolini."

## The Week's Papers

**W**EDNESDAY, October 24.—Supreme Court of District of Columbia holds railroad pension law, affecting 200,000 workers, unconstitutional and "confiscatory"; railroad stock prices immediately rise. . . . United States and Great Britain unite to fight Manchukuo oil monopoly as barring American producers in favor of Japanese in world oil profits fight. . . . 30,000 silk and rayon dyers in New Jersey and New York begin strike. . . . Grain deliveries in U.S.S.R. to State reported to be 97.8 percent fulfilled, exceeding last year's by 60,000,000 bushels. . . . Retail Dry Goods Association favors unemployment insurance in "principle" but warns against "penalizing" employers. . . . Red Cross reports on its activities for year, but fails to meet John L. Spivak's charges in American Mercury under title *Shady Doings in the American Red Cross*.

Thursday—American Legion convention at Miami votes, 987 to 183, for immediate payment of bonus; also asks denial of all political rights to Communist Party throughout United States. . . . Donald Richberg decries inflation fears, says currency is sounder than in twenty years. . . . Fascists in Austria battle Catholics in two cities. . . . Mayor LaGuardia denies hearing to 150 City College of New York students demanding ousting of their reactionary President, Frederick B. Robinson. . . . Professional New York models open war of retaliation on debutantes who take their jobs. Senator Byrd asks Roosevelt to "correct conditions" at old

Point Comfort, Va., where Hotel New Chamberlin, standing on Federal site, advertises Jews are unwelcome. . . . Fourteen workers arrested in Pacific Coast longshoremen's strike were deported, Secretary Perkins reports.

Friday.—Postmaster General Farley acquits Roosevelt of charge of being dictator. . . . Claude Neal, Negro, taken from Alabama jail to Marianna, Fla., by Florida mob, tortured and lynched "as advertised" twelve hours in advance, while officials refuse to act. . . . Soviet gold mines expected to produce \$150,000,000 this year. . . . Paterson dye plants shut by pickets. . . . Francis Gorman, United Textile Workers head, expresses fears that the rank and file sentiment means a textile re-strike.

Saturday.—Roosevelt and Attorney-General Cummings, asked to act in Neal kidnaping and lynching, do nothing. . . . Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company closes its 428 grocery stores in Cleveland rather than recognize workers' right to unionize. . . . King of Siam, upset because his right to pardon condemned persons is abrogated, threatens to abdicate. . . . Farley blames "dumb stenographer" for sending out letter endorsing Upton Sinclair.

Sunday.—I.L.D. again demands Federal action in Neal lynching. . . . Federal Emergency Relief Administration will buy 100,000 bushels of potatoes in Long Island to distribute to New York needy "to help needy farmers." . . . William Green, A.F. of L. head, says unem-

ployment is rising. . . . Father Coughlin, back on the air, attacks Liberty League as "mouthpiece of the bankers."

Monday.—A. & P. strike spreads to its stores in Milwaukee as National Labor Relations Board calls for one of those conferences. . . . Public Works Administration asks \$12 billion fund for five year public works program "to end large-scale relief expenditures." . . . Average public works "wages" recently were \$10 weekly, Federal Relief Administrator Hopkins admits. . . . Mussolini supervises some of the military officials starting to train all Italian males between ages of 8 and 33 in drills and use of arms. . . . Huge street demonstrations of protest held in Dublin as President De Valera receives Hitler's new minister, Wilhelm von Kuhlmann. . . . Britain and U. S. expect no success in their efforts to get Japan to give up her demand for naval equality. . . . Notorious "Protocols of Zion" forged by Czarist agents, Swiss Nazi trial reveals.

Tuesday.—Albany police club, jail New York hunger marchers seeking to enter Albany to demand relief. . . . DuPonts contributed \$432,000 in past 15 years to campaign funds and "gifts," mainly to Republicans. . . . At least two workers shot, scores hurt when police fire on picket line of Denver relief strikers. . . . French Army ready to "act" in Saar basin "to prevent Nazi putsch" in coming plebescite. Government report shows American shipowners underpay, overwork crews, even on ships operating under mail subsidies.

# Plotting the American Pogroms

## 6. Anti-Semitic Duet: Easley and Viereck

JOHN L. SPIVAK

THE long arm of Nazi anti-semitic propaganda in this country works cunningly through hidden hands. I have already uncovered some of these mysterious underground sources for nurturing hatred of the Jew. Now I shall present evidence that the prominent one hundred and twenty percent "patriot," Ralph M. Easley, chairman of the Executive Council of the National Civic Federation, 570 Lexington Avenue, New York City, has secretly distributed anti-semitic propaganda as well as reported confidentially to George Sylvester Viereck, paid Nazi agent, on the efforts of the "patriot" to stop the Jewish boycott of German goods—an act which, if successful, would be of incalculable service to Nazi Germany.

The National Civic Federation is the largest and most influential of the "patriotic" organizations, so many of which are flooding the country with the "hate the Jew" creed. The Federation is close to the federal government. Mr. Easley himself makes frequent and mysterious trips to Washington to confer with Labor and State Department officials, either bringing them "information" or "patriotically" trying to peddle forged documents for a price—as he tried to peddle the now notorious Whalen forgeries four years ago. When he could not sell them to Robert Kelley, chief of the Far Eastern Division of the State Department, he tried to peddle them to a Hearst newspaper correspondent. And failing in that, Easley finally stuck former Police Commissioner Grover Whalen with them so that the latter rushed into print only to have the documents a little later proven as forgeries. I mention this so that the reader will understand how the "patriot" Ralph M. Easley works.

On the National Civic Federation executive council we find very influential men. Its ramifications and influence are wide. There is, for instance, the acting president of this organization: Matthew Woll. Woll is vice-president of the American Federation of Labor which went on record as favoring the boycott of German goods. Then there is Archibald Stevenson, chairman of the Department of Subversive Movements. Mr. Stevenson achieved a lot of prominence years ago by his activities in whipping up a "Red" hysteria for the notorious Lusk Committee. He succeeded in developing a "Red" scare which resulted in Socialist Assemblymen being kicked out of the Legislature just because they were Socialists. Then there is James W. Gerard, former Ambassador to Germany, who is in charge of the Commission on Industrial Inquiry. It is former Ambassador

Gerard who, after this series of articles began, hysterically warned the Jews that if they did not abhor Communism they would have in the United States pogroms, "the like of which the world had never seen."

Jews and gentiles, scared by the Communist bugaboo raised by these men, contribute heavily to the National Civic Federation's well filled coffers. So far as the world at large knows, Easley's life has been devoted to fighting Communism or any other form of radicalism which appeared in this country. When the Communists were not around, he grew apoplectic about the I.W.W.'s. When that scare passed and the country somehow still survived, he got choleric over the Socialists—whom he now views with a mild tolerance. Easley always manages to get a cause to scare the propertied class. There is a great deal that I could say of this professional "patriot's" past, but space forbids all but the mention that he was closely connected with Boris Brasol who was largely responsible for the widespread dissemination of the notorious "Protocols of Zion." This fact of his past is little known—especially to the wealthy Jews who give money to his organization. This, though, was in his past. Let me now tell of his present activities, when while offering to help and work with wealthy and prominent Jews interested in counteracting anti-semitism, he was actually distributing anti-semitic propaganda, working to stop the boycott and all the while secretly reporting to George Sylvester Viereck, shrewd high pressure Nazi propagandist.

In my first article in *THE NEW MASSES*, I announced that I would present evidence to this effect in the course of this series and apparently Mr. Easley's "patriotic" conscience is not altogether at ease, judging by the fear he had of seeing me. I telephoned him for an appointment.

"Who's calling?" his secretary asked.

"Mr. Spivak—of *THE NEW MASSES*. Is Mr. Easley in?"

"Yes, just a minute and I'll get him for you."

The minute stretched out to four by the watch—just long enough, I judged, to trace the call and get several people listening in on extension wires. Then—

"Hello," said a sharp voice.

"Mr. Easley?"

"No, this is Mr. Stevenson—"

"Not Archie Stevenson of the old 'red-baiting' fame?"

"This is Mr. Archibald Stevenson," the voice said with dignity. "What is it you wish to see Mr. Easley about?"

"I should like to see him about his anti-semitic activities. I know, of course, that he does not like Communists, but what I want to know is why he is carrying on anti-semitic work—what that has to do with his hatred of Communism."

"Mr. Easley is not carrying on anti-semitic work—"

"I should like to know why Mr. Easley, representing the ultra-patriotic National Civic Federation, has been reporting secretly to George Sylvester Viereck, Nazi agent."

"Mr. Easley has *not* been reporting to Mr. Viereck," Archie Stevenson exclaimed indignantly.

"I am sorry. I have Mr. Easley's letters to Mr. Viereck," I assured him.

"Well—" there was silence for a moment. "Mr. Easley is not in at the moment. Perhaps you had better see him."

"That's why I called. Could I make an appointment?"

"Please call tomorrow at ten."

At ten the next morning I telephoned. A girl's voice answered when I gave my name.

"Oh, Mr. Spivak," it said. "I have a message for you. Mr. Easley said that on advice of counsel he would rather not see you. He thinks it would be better if you submitted the questions you wish to ask him and he will give them due consideration."

"You mean Mr. Easley is afraid to answer personally propounded questions? That he wants time to think over the answers?"

"Well, it's on advice of counsel," his secretary replied.

"I'll send him the questions this afternoon by registered mail. I hope he and his counsel will enjoy answering them."

The list of questions are appended to this article. I expect that on "advice of counsel" Mr. Easley will not answer them. I am appending them only so that the reader will know what questions Mr. Easley has been advised not to answer.

We thus have an idea of the sort of person this professional "patriot" is. Let us now, since they worked so closely together, see what sort of person George Sylvester Viereck is. Mr. Viereck is an author, journalist and editor. I will not go into his literary history which has nothing to do with this article. I will merely say that he is one of the shrewdest propagandists I know. He himself does not commit himself to writing. However, Mr. Easley did enough writing for both of them.

Viereck's past has shown him prominently as a German propagandist. Since Hitler got into power he has been an active Nazi