

PATHFINDER

Oct. 30, 1937: p. 6

Un-American Americans



In Andover, New Jersey: Uniforms, "Heils," Swastikas and American Flags

A group of boys and girls were swimming in a river. In a nearby field, another group played games. In a shady grove, several hundred adults sat drinking beer and singing. This scene at Andover, N. J., last week would have resembled that at any ordinary picnic ground had it not been for the fact that the songs were German and that Nazi swastikas were as much in evidence as American flags.

During the past four years, 21 camps have been erected in the United States under the auspices of the pro-Hitler German-American Volksbund.[†] For the most part, the camps have served as vacation spots for German-American children who may stay in them for \$4.50 a week. However, Nazi-minded adults have rented lots for \$15 a year and have swarmed to the camping grounds every week-end for swimming and games, beer-drinking and relaxation.

The Volksbund early identified itself with Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich. Furthermore, its members at times have indulged themselves in parades, Nazi salutes, and loud "heils." For these reasons the organization has drawn much criticism for "un-American" activities.

Strongest critic of alleged Nazi activities in this country has been U. S. Representative Samuel Dickstein of New York. Last week, Dickstein renewed his arguments before the House for passage of the Dies resolution. This bill would provide for a Congressional inquiry into un-American activities of foreign agents. Representative Dickstein read a letter from a regional C. I. O. director in New Jersey calling for a Congressional investigation of Nazi camps and criticizing Governor Hoffman for alleged "laxity in the investigation of Nazi encampments in

[†] Besides the German-American Volksbund, whose membership has been reported as high as 300,000, there is a minor group in this country known as the Russian National Revolutionary Party which has as its eventual purpose the overthrow of Stalin's regime.

"Un-American" Americans

New Jersey." C. I. O. members had been angered by speeches made at the opening of Camp Nordland in Andover, N. J., a fortnight ago. There, German-American officials had called John L. Lewis an "absolute alien" and labeled the C. I. O. an "alien" organization.

Further complaints came from American war veterans. At Sea Girt, N. J., veterans of the Twenty-Ninth Division last week adopted a resolution condemning the "un-American" principles allegedly being taught at Nordland. Commanders of New Jersey posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars met last week to press for an immediate investigation.

In reply to all attacks, the Volksbund has constantly asserted that its members were all American citizens and that they had a perfect right to organize and to build camps. With this argument Representative Dickstein has not agreed. Besides pressing for a Congressional investigation, he last week read into the record the names of 46 "spies" he said were being paid by Germany to organize Nazi activities in this country. He charged further that the camps were places where troops have been drilled and guns and ammunition stored.