

Police Here On Guard Against Italian Fifth Column Activity

Secret, Detailed Orders Issued to City Detectives . . .

FBI Watches Fascist Leaders

Hawk-faced, usually smiling John J. Ryan, Assistant Chief Inspector in charge of the city's detectives, called his right-hand men together yesterday. Grimly he handed them a 25-page mimeographed order containing detailed instructions to watch Fascisti groups here, rifle clubs, secret societies that might harm American neutrality or American institutions. Similar orders had been given about German and Irish groups (PM, May 20). Yesterday's were more secret.

In Washington, officials knew detailed instructions for guarding against sabotage had been given New York police, but denied they came from the FBI. The G-men, however, are watching leaders of Italian secret societies.

Anti-spy, anti-sabotage precautions increased yesterday. New Jersey State Highway employes were told to keep civilians away from drawbridges and to make them pass over quickly. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, rapidly gaining power, will get authority to tap wires in the interest of national defense. Congress passed a bill unanimously approved by the House judiciary committee yesterday. Alien seamen were being fingerprinted by the thousands, on penalty of not being allowed ashore here.

Bending the Fifth Column back upon itself (verbally) was the German-American Bund's Free American—formerly (possibly still) Little Fuehrer Kuhn's organ. Yesterday it announced the birth of an American Anti-Fifth Column Committee. Platform No. 7: Billions for defense of America, but not one cent to provide foreign graves for American youths. Another plank objects to giving arms to the Allies.—L. W.



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