

BULLETIN NO. 3

THE SILVER SHIRTS : THEIR HISTORY, FOUNDER AND ACTIVITIESI. THE SILVER SHIRTS

The Silver Shirts came into existence the early part of this year. They are enrolling White Protestant Christians as members of a Christian Militia, through a plan of State Encampments that are reported to extend into various states of the Union, with Posts in every community.

The membership age is 18 years or over, and the fee of \$10.00, plus \$6.00 for a uniform. An Oath of Consecration as a True Christian Soldier is required of every member, and the wearing of a Silver Shirt which bears a huge scarlet letter "L", representing Love, Loyalty and Liberation.

The organization is headed by William Dudley Pelley and has its headquarters at Asheville, N. C. Through special appeals in the official publication of the "Silver Shirts" and through confidential letters sent to prospective members throughout the United States, an active and sustained effort is being made to extend the total membership, the exact size of which cannot be estimated.

Special enrollments are also solicited for the Galahad Extension Fellowship and the Foundation for Christian Economics, which lays the foundation for the teaching of Silver Shirt principles.

II. THEIR AIMS

The Silver Shirts state that they are a Protestant Christian movement, for bringing on the new Christ government, through a strictly Christian Militia, this government to be administered by people of the Christian faith and Silver Shirt ideals.

They claim that President Franklin D. Roosevelt has set aside the Constitution, which they desire to restore.

They aim to save United States from a state of Sovietism into which, they charge, the Jews are leading the country.

They propose to ward off the Money Power wielded by outstanding leaders of the "predatory people", the Jews.

They want "a people who constitute only 2.5 per cent of the population to be held down to a 2.5 per cent influence in the American government, and we propose to see that it is brought about, race prejudice or no!"

III. WHO IS WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY?

The son of a Methodist minister, William Dudley Pelley was born in Lynn,

Massachusetts, in 1885. Possessed of only a public school education, he edited the "Philosopher Magazine", at Fulton, N. Y., at the age of 24. He today regards himself as a Congregationalist, according to the current edition of "Who's Who in America", the 1928-9 edition of which gives his religious affiliation as "Protestant". His politics incidentally are given as Republican.

His magazine venture does not seem to have lasted beyond the year 1909, for he was Treasurer and Manager of the Pelley Tissue Corporation in Springfield, Massachusetts, from that same year until 1912. His next venture was in the field of journalism. He was editor and publisher of newspapers in three small New England towns in 1913 and 1914.

The World War found him in Siberia, in the service of the International Y. M. C. A.

In subsequent years, he spent a considerable period at Hollywood. Disappointing experiences connected with this period, are reflected in his bitter denunciation of the film-world.

In an "Official Despatch" of the Silver Shirts, the claim is made that in 1929 he "set aside his former occupation, that netted him an income of \$25,000 a year", to found the League for the Liberation, with headquarters at Washington, D. C.

In the same year 1929, he published a book, "Seven Minutes in Eternity", in which he told how his soul was detached from his body for a period of seven minutes, which were spent in eternity. This book sold hundreds of thousands of copies, gaining for him a wide hearing and following. He then became Editor of the New Liberator Magazine, a weekly, and President of the College of Christian Economics and the School of Comparative Religions, at Blue Ridge, N. C., undertakings that failed.

In 1931, he organized the Foundation of Christian Economics, laying the basis for the spread of his principles. Through it and the Galahad Extension Fellowship, lectures or lessons were sent to subscribers throughout the country, upon the payment of an enrollment fee.

He is now the Editor of "Liberation", the official organ of the "Silver Shirts" and Commander or Chief of the Silver Shirts. His activities, along psychic lines for a period, are being continued, for he still claims that he receives psychic messages, particularly the "Esoteric Doctrines of the Liberation Enlightenment" and the "Liberation Scripts", which set forth the Christ Government he is to establish.

IV. "LIBERATION", OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SILVER SHIRTS

The League for Liberation, which preceded the publication of "Liberation", was organized by Pelley in 1929. "Liberation" was first published in 1932. It is now the official organ of the "Silver Shirts", and appears weekly. (It was preceded by other publications: "The New Liberator Weekly" and "The Liberation Monthly".)

The material in each issue is composed of:

1. Special attacks against the Jew.
The nature of these attacks is indicated in the next section of this bulletin.
2. Expositions of the Christ-Democracy.
The planks of this Christ Democracy are:
 - a. A Referendum on all legislation.
The government shall mail to every voter a digest of every bill passed by Congress, on which he is to vote "Aye" or "Nay". The legislation shall become effective only upon a 51% favorable vote, making the people legislators in fact and not merely in theory.
 - b. Opposition to anything socialistic or communistic.
 - c. The organization of the United States into a "Colossus Corporation". Every citizen shall be both a Common and a Preferred Stockholder.
 - d. Without equivocation and without any sentimentality "sometimes known as Tolerance", the debauchers within the social body will be emasculated and America re-established on a basis where this spoliation can never again be repeated.
 - e. Only those from its own ranks, a Christian Militia, will be put into political office.
3. "Psychically received" messages by the Founder of "Liberation", which is called "a Journal of Prophecy".
These messages are dictated to Pelley by "A Voice" "Out of the vastness of Cosmos the Psychic Antennae tunes in on a Voice." They are written in the form of the Biblical prophecies.
4. A page by the Treasurer appealing for contributions and on other matters for extending the membership and subscribers.

V. PELLEY'S VIEW OF THE JEWS IN 1931

In 1931, Pelley was publishing "The New Liberator", in New York City. On its first page appeared the following declaration that he had no connection with any creed: "Not connected with any other publication or exponent of any Denomination, Creed or Cult." One of its issues expressed his broad conception concerning the Jew and all religious and racial groups in the following statement:

"Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, white man and black man— with all the gradations of color in between—they exist in the world as we find it because they are serving a constructive positive purpose in the Divine Plan of individual self-ennoblement." (The New Liberator, May 1931, p. 245)

The type of teaching Pelley was promoting in 1931, may be perceived from the following statement on the contents' page of the June 1931 issue:

"The contents of this magazine, unless otherwise designated, were re;

ceived 'clairaudiently' via the Psychic Radio, from Great Souls who graduated out of this Three-Dimensional world into other areas of Time and Space."

VI. PELLEY'S REFERENCES TO THE JEW IN 1932

One is startled to find, a few months later, that this man, who stated in 1931 that Jew and Gentile are serving "a constructive positive purpose in the Divine Plan", and that he was connected with no creed, suddenly turns on the Jew, and begins preaching a doctrine of hate.

In October, 1932, in his publication, "Liberation", the successor to "The New Liberator", published at Asheville, N. C., with no credal disavowal on the contents page, Pelley departed from his plan of creating a great Spiritual Fraternity of Liberators "to assist The Christ in His work for peace".

His point of view had so radically changed that, in the issue of October, 1932, he advises individuals to read:

- a. The "books which Henry Ford published four years ago, on the international race conspiracy".
- b. The speeches, in Congress, of Representative MacFadden of Pennsylvania.

He calls to Christians to take cognizance of the plot to overthrow Christian governments, so that "certain great international bankers may exploit national resources to their financial and racial profit".

VII. "LIBERATION'S" ATTACKS ON THE JEWS IN 1933

From the latter part of 1932, the attitude of Pelley became violent. In one issue after another, he published attacks on the Jew of increasing extent and ferocity. The presence of a number of Jews in the government at Washington is taken as complete evidence of the Jewish control of the United States. The Jews are accused of plotting the overthrow of this democracy. All the discredited literature of the past, including the "Dearborn Independent" and the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" are brought back into service.

The following selected items show the character of these attacks:

THE FATE AWAITING THE HEBREWS

quote
"It is the order of things that those wicked and malignant spirits who have incarnated in certain sections of the Hebrew race trying to bring the downfall of the Christ Peoples, should meet a fearful fate in this closing of the Cycle of Cosmic Event. That contest is on-the-make and Hitler's job it has been to do the advance work.

"But Hitler is not going to finish that work. THE FINISH OF IT COMES RIGHT HERE IN AMERICA!"

THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK

"The Federal Reserve—happens to be a chain of banks that have nothing to do

with the government excepting to abide by the federal laws governing banking. This chain of banks is under the indirect but no less effective control of men like Eugene Meyer, James Warburg, and other members of the international Jewish money-bund."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND THE INTERNATIONAL JEWISH MONEY-BUND

"But when has Franklin D. Roosevelt, as a man, ever shown the qualifications for a successful dictator!

"We have a thousand newspaper reports of his counselling too much with the international Jewish money-bund, and such 'economists' as Bernard M. Baruch."

"—men who two months ago were fanatical in their support of Roosevelt are now convinced that he has let himself become a mere puppet in the hands of Baruch."

"And surely you haven't missed the report, either that the Gentile Woodin is quitting the Treasury and that the Jew, Lehman, takes his post on or about September 1st."

CLAIMS ENDORSEMENT OF INFLUENTIAL GROUP

"The Silver Shirts—having leadership possessed of irrefutable knowledge concerning the predatory elements among international Jews, investigated and endorsed by outstanding business men over the entire United States,—might smash the clutch of international Jewry on American institutions, exactly as Hitler has smashed it on the Fatherland!"

HENRY FORD'S APOLOGY

"Speaking of Henry Ford—did anyone ever see the actual original apology to the Jewish people which he is reported to have signed! —has anyone even seen a photostat copy of it! —would it shock you to be told that Mr. Ford is now being reported in Washington and elsewhere as never having signed such an apology!"

SENATOR MORROW'S DEATH

"In America there are hundreds of men who see nothing extraordinary that Senator Morrow 'happened' to be stricken fatally the day after his attendance at a Jewish banquet." (Confidential Official Despatch)

WHY "THE SILVER SHIRTS" ARE FIGHTING THE INFLUENCE OF THE JEW

"There are three main reasons why 'The Silver Shirts of America' cannot condone the increasing influence of the Jew in official, financial and social life of the United States—:

The first of these is Jewish Methods in Economic Life.

The second is the Peculiar Business Code of the Jew.

The third is the Jew's nomadic character, asking him an internationalist whose ultimate objectives may well mean the destruction and disappearance of the United States."

WHY UNITED STATES IS RECOGNIZING SOVIET RUSSIA

"There is absolutely no truth in the statement that the United States is recognizing Sovietia for Trade.

"If America does not now recognize Sovietia, two and one-half million Jews in Russia will be immediately exterminated."

VIII. PELLEY'S RELATION TO HITLERISM

There is every reason to believe that Pelley's bitter campaign against the Jews has been encouraged by Hitler's ascent to power, and is to some extent financed by Nazi sympathizers.

The following quotations from an "official despatch" and from "Liberation" bear out that observation:

"On January 31, 1933—the day that Hitler came into power in Germany—Pelley came out from under-cover with his SILVER SHIRT NATIONAL ORGANIZATION."

"That is not denying, either, that the closest rapport maintains between the outstanding sponsors of the Hitler-Germanic idealists in America, and the men—known or unknown—who are supporting The Silver Legion—The Chief of the Silver Legion counts it an honor to be in the confidence of some of the highest Hitlerites in the United States and to know something of their forthcoming plans against predatory Jewry."

"The treatment which Hitler received in the United States at the hands of Jewish-controlled agencies of publicity, has done more to arouse Christians to this menace of predominating Jewry than all the books ever published at the expense of a disgruntled motor magazine in Detroit."

"And on July 25th the Deutsche Zentrale of the Germanischer-Bund, or Germanic League, whose headquarters are in Chicago, extended to Commander Pelley an Honorary Membership in the League in recognition of his work for the purging of our nation of its subversive elements maliciously undermining the Federal Constitution."

"For a period of about five months, Pelley has been holding an element among his supporters in control—in which heavy numbers of German Lutherans predominate—that has beseeched him to herald a universal American boycott against all Jews from New York to Los Angeles, from Houston to Seattle."

WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY

William Dudley Pelley, spiritualist, mystic, red-baiter, Jew-bater, and union buster, founder of the League of the Liberation, Galahad College, the League for Christian Economics, the Silver Shirts, and the Silver Legion, is today one of the most active and best publicized of American Fascists. At present the head of the Christian Party and the Councils of Safety, it is his aim to replace American democracy with a regime patterned after Hitler's Germany.

According to Who's Who in America, Pelley was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, on March 12, 1890, the son of a Methodist minister. He was educated in the local public school and, at an early age, went to work for the W.A.S. Pelley Tissue Corporation in Springfield, a toilet paper manufacturing firm, owned by members of his family. He left this firm in 1909 to edit and publish the Philosopher's Magazine in Fulton, New York. Within a year this venture failed and he returned to the Pelley firm as treasurer and general manager. Within three years he left to establish himself in the job-printing business in Springfield, Massachusetts.

During the next seven years, Pelley edited and published several newspapers in various New England towns. At the same time, he was contributing articles to nationally circulated magazines, such as Collier's, Good Housekeeping, Red Book and the American Magazine. When the war broke out, Pelley served as a Y.M.C.A. secretary with the Japanese forces in Siberia, in 1918 and 1919.

After the war, Pelley resumed his literary career. He went to Hollywood, hoping to break into the movie business as a scenario writer, and remained there until about 1927. Unable to make the grade - and this fact is reflected in his later writings - he returned to New York.

Pelley achieved nation-wide notoriety for the first time in 1926 when the American Magazine published his article, "My Seven Minutes in Eternity." In this article Pelley announced that his soul had left his body for seven minutes and ascended to heaven. He intimated that he had interviewed Christ. The article caused a great stir. It was reprinted in pamphlet form and distributed throughout the country. Spiritualist circles began to take notice of it, some of them hoping to find in him a genuine medium. Within a short time, he had gathered about himself a group of devoted followers. One very wealthy lady even proposed to erect a building as a meeting place for Pelley's followers. But Pelley could not make the grade. Soon spiritualist authorities were pronouncing him a fraud, and would have nothing more to do with him.

Pelley, however, continued his spiritualist work and in 1930 he established the Galahad Press in New York City. In the course of several months, he published a number of books of a psychic nature. He issued a magazine, The New Liberator, devoted exclusively to spiritualism and psychic thought. Pelley wrote all the articles in this magazine himself, claiming that they were psychically dictated. The magazine bore the following inscription: "The contents of this magazine, unless otherwise designated, were obtained clair-audiently via the Psychic Radio from great souls who have graduated out of this three-dimensional world to other areas of time and space."

The New Liberator was not a financial success. It would not appear regularly and, in order to bolster up his finances, Pelley organized the League of the

Liberation. He also began to sell shares in the company sponsoring his publication.

Up to this point, the ideas Pelley preached were purely spiritualistic. But with the organization of his League, a new note crept into Pelley's writings. He began to speak of Christian economics, of Christian civilization, as against non-Christian civilization; he began to emphasize 100% Americanism.

Early in 1931, Pelley left New York, wandered to Washington, D.C. and thence to Asheville, N.C. There he organized the Foundation of Christian Economics and the Galahad Extension University, which mailed lessons and lectures to subscribers upon payment of an enrollment fee.

It is rather difficult to explain in simple terms Pelley's theory of Christian economics. It involved a curious sort of mysticism, compounded of astrology, mythology, and spiritualism. It appears, though, that the basic idea was to organize the United States as a corporation, in which all citizens were to be stock-holders and were to be guaranteed a minimum monthly income. This was Pelley's platform in 1932. He was not successful with it, and, as a result was constantly in financial difficulties. Towards the end of that year, he came in contact with Friedrich Heiss, a former German Socialist, who had been in New York a good many years prior to Hitler's rise to power. Like Pelley, he was interested in spiritualism, but he had become an ardent Nazi. Heiss was the first editor of America's Deutsche Post, a National Socialist newspaper, published in New York. Heiss' influence soon began to be felt in Pelley's writings. Whereas only the year before Pelley's publication had expressed tolerance of all men, irrespective of race, creed, or cult, he now suddenly turned against the Jews and preached a doctrine of hate.

Pelley's active entrance into anti-Jewish fields began when he organized the Silver Legion, early in 1933, coinciding with the rise of Adolf Hitler to power in Germany. The influence of the Nazi ideology upon Pelley is evident. Not only was he closely connected with Heiss, but throughout his career as head of the Silver Legion he actively cooperated with the Nazi organization in America. Thus, we find that Fred J. Buttry, head of the Silver Shirts in New York, was also an active Nazi. In California, the Dickstein Committee revealed that the Nazi leaders, Schwinn, Thealitz, and Winterhaltler, divided their activities between the Friends of New Germany and the Silver Shirts. Pelley's chief lieutenant, and so-called foreign adjutant, von Lilienthal-Toal, was an employee of the German Steamship Lines, controlled by the German government.

Pelley went about organizing his Silver Legion in a most business-like manner. He inserted in the classified sections of newspapers all over the country advertisements for salesmen, and organized crews to sell memberships. He inaugurated a regular radio broadcast over Station W.N.C. in Asheville. State organizations were established in a number of states. In Oklahoma, a Ranger Division was established, headed by Major Powell, whose members were uniformed and armed. His New Liberator Magazine was succeeded by "Liberation," which preached the doctrine of hate against Jews and Communists. In Oklahoma City he published the Silver Ranger, edited by James Craig. In California, a Silver Shirt Rifle Club was headed by Willard Kemp. According to Pelley, his organization numbered some three million members. Actually, it has been estimated as nearer 75,000. Despite the wide ramifications of the Silver Legion,

Pelley's movement was still not a financial success. Although he evidently had been receiving money from unknown sources, Pelley was, at the end of 1933, hard pressed for money. He was forced to resort to various means to bolster up his finances; one of these was the selling of stock in his financially insolvent enterprises. Finally, he ran afoul of the law. About a year after the foraging of the Silver Shirts, Pelley was indicted for fraud in North Carolina. He was convicted in February, 1935, and sentenced to from one to five years' imprisonment with a fine of \$1,000 and costs. The costs amounted to an additional \$2,000. The prison sentence was suspended, but he was barred forever from issuing any publication in the state of North Carolina. He went into bankruptcy and his assets were sold at public auction. This marked the end of Pelley's activities for some time. His organization collapsed and Pelley's career seemed to be at an end.

But Pelley did not remain idle for long. Although there were judgments of over \$110,000 against him, he resumed his activities and, in the summer of 1935, organized the Christian Party and Councils of Safety. To provide the motive force for his new movement, Pelley uncovered a new prophecy - the "iceberg prophecy." He related that a certain clairvoyant had in 1929 gone into a trance and had predicted that in 1936 "after sitting on an iceberg in the midst of hostile humanity," he would awaken one morning to discover that the people of the United States would follow him like sheep. The date of the realization of this prophecy was set for September 16, 1936.

The Councils of Safety were to form a "vast grape-vine system," covering the nation. Pelley traveled throughout the country organizing these councils, but he appears to have received the best response on the West Coast. His most successful meeting was held at Seattle, Washington. In January, 1936, Pelley announced himself as a candidate for president on the Christian Party ticket, with Willard Kemp, California oil speculator and former head of the armed militia of the Silver Legion, as his running mate. Other state organizations were set up in the Middle West and in the East. To replace "Liberation," Pelley started a new magazine, "Pelley's Weekly" and in defiance of the state authorities he is publishing it from Asheville, North Carolina, his old headquarters. M. Helen Pelley is listed as publisher.

Although the Christian Party is now active in many states, its greatest strength is concentrated on the West Coast: in Oregon, Washington and California. Pelley himself, although his headquarters are still officially at Asheville, North Carolina, has been spending his time there during recent months. He travels from town to town with his retinue, organizing meetings almost daily.

From available information, it is difficult to estimate the present-day strength of Pelley's organization. However, it can safely be said that it now possesses only a fraction of its former strength. But Pelley appears to be as confident as ever that he will eventually succeed in overthrowing the government and establishing Christian economics as the basic law of the land.

What these principles are can be learned from "Pelley's Weekly" of August 19, 1936. One must be familiar with Pelley's style of writing to understand the gist of them. However, they can be summarized as follows:

The nation is to be organized as one great corporation in which each citizen will be the owner of one share of common stock, for which he will be guaranteed \$1,000 a year as perpetual "hunger" insurance; Negroes and Jews are to be made

"wards of the Republic," under a Gentile Secretary of Jews and Aliens in the Presidential cabinet; one city in each state is to be set aside as a city of Jews who are not to be permitted to own property anywhere else; mortgages and foreclosures on private property are to be made illegal forever; a course in practical civics is to be introduced in the public school system and children are to be taught that the Jew is a menace to America; finally, the secret ballot is to be abolished and all elections are to be conducted by means of the postal system, and the citizen who does not vote is to be punished.

The above, of course, is only a summary of Pelley's ideas of government. But one may feel certain that only few of his followers are truly familiar with his aims; for Pelley's writings always were of a mystic and spiritualist character, couched in terms which have no clear meaning. Pelley has built up a peculiar vocabulary which includes such words as "clairaudiently," "cosmic knowledge," "esoteric doctrines," etc., exact definitions of which are never entirely clear. His articles are usually long-winded and pointless, and it is generally very difficult to be certain of his proposals. The following excerpts from Pelley's writings are a fair example of his style. In "Liberation" of July 15, 1933 we read:

"Out of the vastness of Cosmos the Psychic Antennae tunes in on a Voice. If the Word was made flesh and spake once to men, how much stronger may be its pronouncements when the handicaps of the flesh are perished? If we cannot believe this, to Whom or What shall we look for authority of commitments like the following?..."

From "Liberation" of July 29, 1933, we read:

"Ye have no way of seeing what I see, beloved; ye possess little knowledge of time-to-time developments; ye have no means by which ye can determine without fault what men are doing, or saying, or contending. Ye are groping in a Great Darkness, and I enlighten you; I send you ministers, ministering unto you; they do come to you with despatch; lo, ere they reach you to tell you that which happeneth, the manner of the fact hath altered." ...

From "Liberation" of February 18, 1933, we read:

"On the evening of January 30, 1933, in a colonial-styled structure at the corner of Charlotte Street and Sunset Parkway in the little southern city of Asheville, North Carolina, American history was made.

"No one knew American history was being made. The usual evening lamps were burning in the building that is locally known as Calahad College. Asheville was going about its customary evening business. Great America was in the throes of a mysterious 'depression.'

"But in the eastern wing of the building, in a room made up on two sides of glass windows, an office worker had laid down the current copy of the night's local paper on the desk of the Chief. In heavy black type across the eight columns of its front page were the screaming headlines:

"'Adolf Hitler Named German Chancellor.'

"Pelley paused in his Liberation script work, saw the headlines and picked up the newspaper with a strange constriction in his spirit.

"Four years previously he had been 'inspirationally' instructed:

'When a certain young house-painter comes to the head of the German people, then do you take that as your time symbol for bringing the work of the Christian Militia into the open!'

"The 'certain young house-painter' had come to the head of the German people!

"Pelley pressed an office buzzer and called about him the handful of workers still remaining in the building.

"'Tomorrow,' he declared, 'we launch the Silver Shirts!'

In Pelley's Weekly of September 2, 1936, we read:

"The mystical number '17' which has symbolized all major operations in Chief Pelley's career to date, has operated again without design on the Chief's part. He has delivered seventeen public speeches since 'coming into the open' in the West on the 9th of June, and the outermost point of the northwest Silver Trek is reached. Forthwith, the Silver-shirts turn into a statewide convocation, awaiting the developments of September 16th."

One cannot always be certain of what Pelley favors, but one is seldom left in doubt as to what Pelley opposes, and he opposes many things. The Jews, of course, are his chief objects of hatred. To Pelley, the Jews are the root of all evil. Whenever he is against anything, it is because Jews are connected with it, and if he can't find Jews, he creates them. Thus, his chief objection to Communism is its alleged Jewishness. According to Pelley, Jews brought on the World War, the depression, and the N.R.A. Negroes must not be granted racial equality because Rabbi Wise is for it; unions must be destroyed because Jews are among the most prominent leaders. He opposes Roosevelt because Roosevelt is a Jew named Rosenfeld; but he also opposes Landon, charging, in the issue of August 19, 1936, that Landon's campaign manager, Hamilton, has been following him from town to town organizing meetings on the same day, so as to counteract the effective work done by the Christian Party. To prove that he plays no favorites, he has also announced that Hearst is a Jew named Hertzog.

If Pelley is to be believed, most of the prominent men in public life whom he dislikes are Jews. These include George Arliss, former Vice-President Dawes, the Van Sweringen brothers, and Nerton D. Baker. Pelley has attacked the Catholic church from time to time, and his issue of May 13, 1936, contained a long diatribe against the Christian Science Church. In a petition circulated in Iowa in 1933, he attacked the Greeks. He has consistently followed the method of availing himself of every slight discontent due to the economic crisis to attack every organization, group, or development which was in any way open to misrepresentation and abuse.

It is little wonder then that in spite of his repeated failures, Pelley has always managed to obtain some sort of following. There is always a sufficient number of discontented, unemployed human misfits, there are always enough fanatics of

either a religious or political variety ready to accept demagogues of the Pelley type as their saviors.

In common with most other subversive anti-Semitic fascist groups, Pelley suffered a great setback after the Presidential elections of 1936. As a result, Pelley's Weekly was discontinued and the constant flow of anti-Semitic circulars emanating from Silver Shirt headquarters practically ceased. By January 1st, 1937, however, Pelley resumed the publication of his New Liberation as a monthly retaining some of the anti-Semitic features of his Weekly and combining them with the mystic articles of the New Liberation. His main activities were centered on the Coast and by the middle of 1937 he considered himself strong enough to put up his own ticket in the state of Washington. Here, too, Pelley suffered a crushing defeat since out of a total of nearly a half a million votes, he polled just a little more than 1500.

It is characteristic of Pelley that he always remained at a distance from the various attempts by other anti-Semitic groups to form a coalition. Most of these other anti-Semitic groups have found Pelley to be a "lone wolf" who refused to cooperate in any way unless he himself was given dictatorial powers. It is because of this that it is difficult to estimate the present strength of the Silver Shirt movement. It is known, however, that he has several able lieutenants, notably Roy Zachary, who, in the past few months has organized meetings in various parts of the country including New York, Henry Kay Allen who has been spending a good deal of time in Washington, and Kenneth Alexander whose activities are centered mainly on the West Coast. In New York a number of secret Silver Shirt meetings have been held recently at Steinway Hall. It is significant, however, that most of the attendance consisted of known Nazis and that among the literature distributed, a number of pro-Japanese pamphlets, including a regular publication entitled "The Japanese America," were prominent. According to reports, there has also been much Silver Shirt activity in Ohio and in several other middle western states, most of this being due to the energetic efforts of Roy Zachary.

During the past two years, Pelley has been steadily increasing the range of his activities as a publisher. In addition to continuing the publication of Liberation, a weekly magazine, he has written a number of small booklets that are violently anti-Jewish. The organization of his Silver Shirt movement appears to be directed along underground channels, although every now and then a meeting of one of these groups is held with considerable attendant publicity.

Pelley has found it difficult to consort with any of his fellow travelers. Although he is in sympathy with anti-Communist activities, he appears to nourish a vicious hate for Martin Dies. He has threatened that if Dies subpoenas him for investigation, "he will bust the Jewish question wide open." Whether this threat is directed against Dies or against the Jews, he does not say. He has also attacked Cong. J. Farnell Thomas, a member of the Dies Committee, for what Pelley considers attempts by Thomas to usurp the rightful privilege of Dies to impeach Secretary Perkins.

In Liberation of February 21, 1939, he was comparing George Washington and Franklin Roosevelt. In the course of his remarks, the following appears about Washington:

"He did not require to be whelled up to the fireplace whenever he felt a chat coming on; he did not smoke cigarettes in 14-inch holders; he heaved no ink-wells at fellow officials when they undertook to cross him."

His program against Jews may be summarized as follows: anti-Jewish riots, disenfranchisement, segregation, and sterilization of all male Jews. Thus he writes in Liberation for October 14, 1938, pages 10 and 11:

"Lament it though they do, avoid it as they would, people of brains who are not too squeamish to look facts in the face are becoming convinced that a wave of race vengeance approximating the aspects of a coast-to-coast pogrom is inevitably ahead for the Jews of America as more millions of them crowd in with immigration barriers lifted!...

"Just how bad these anti-Semitic riots are going to be, is as conjectural as the length of time that they may be found to run. But one thing is not conjectural--The man or set of men that stops them, and gives the Jew the opportunity to cry "Kamrad!" and surrender himself, is going to be the man or set of men that dictates the financial and political policies of the United States for the succeeding decade--and mayhap generation--and fix the Jew so he does no more mischief.

"Two solutions of the Jewish Problem are now being discussed where Gentiles gather with no Jews present. The first is to defranchise the Jew, after the anti-Semitic riots have been stopped, and designate one city in each State where he can gather with his kind and dwell in security against further goy reprisals.

By making that specified metropolis the only city wherein he can own property, a condition will be effected where great power-loving Jews will be forced from the American scene as individuals, and where the small-fry Yiddisher can live his life without coming in frictional contact with Gentile neighbors.

The second solution to the Jewish Problem is more drastic. It consists of a congress of Aryan nations getting together and making a common cause of sterilizing all male Jews over a period of years, so that the race as a race gradually dies out!

"STERILIZATION, once decided upon, can be performed painlessly, humanely. Male Jews can simply be stopped from breeding successive generations of new little Israelites to keep up this racial psychopathy of which Rabbi Wise speaks so frankly and histrionically.

Present Jewish families need not be disrupted. Present young Jews and young Jewesses need not be kept from marrying. But no more Jewish babies will come from such unions.

Jewish families will be childless..."

April 14th, 1939.

Pelley + The Silver Shirts

THE REPERCUSSIONS OF HITLERISM
IN
THE UNITED STATES

not to be used

It is significant that the depression had run over three years in the United States, before Hitler's accession to power in Germany, without any marked evidences of anti-Semitism. The first organized attack emanated from William Dudley Pelley, Chief of the Silver Shirts and editor of their official organ, "Liberation". This man had, in 1931, revealed a broad conception of the role of different religious and racial groups in civilization. This appreciation was expressed by Pelley in his publication, "The New Liberator", in the following words:

"Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, white man and black man - with all the gradations of color in between - they exist in the world as we find it because they are serving a constructive positive purpose in the Divine Plan of individual self-ennoblement."

(The New Liberator, May 1931, p.245)

The swing of Pelley to the pole of anti-Semitism came as a consequence of Hitler's triumph and the announcement of the Nazi program. Pelley's official despatch made the following boast of that inspiration for his movement:

"On January 31, 1933 - the day that Hitler came into power in Germany - Pelley came out from under-cover with his SILVER SHIRT NATIONAL ORGANIZATION."

The importance of this development lay in the fact that it concerned a native American who, in his psychic activities, had built up a considerable following among native Americans. It was among that group that the Silver Shirt attack was finding circulation.

William Dudley Pelley was born in 1885, in Lynn, Massachusetts, the son of a Methodist Minister. His activities have gained for him, mention in "Who's Who in America." He edited and published several newspapers in New

England, and gave up these activities to serve with the Y.M.C.A. in Siberia, during the World War. He tried Hollywood with his scripts but failed to make any headway. As a writer, he succeeded in gaining a market for his material, particularly for his article, "Seven Minutes in Eternity," which was published in The American Magazine in 1929, and later in book form, which sold in hundreds of thousands of copies. It tells of the experiences of his soul in eternity, detached from his body.

Encouraged by this wide-spread reception of his article, Pelley continued his activities in the psychic field. By 1931, after he had failed in other recent undertakings, he organized the Foundation of Christian Economics. Its lectures and lessons were sent to subscribers through the Galahad Extension Fellowship. The type of teaching that Pelley was promoting in 1931, is indicated by the following quotation from the New Liberator (June, 1931), as his organ was then called:

"The contents of this magazine, unless otherwise designated, were received "clairaudiently," via the Psychic Radio, from Great Souls who graduated out of this Three-Dimensional world into other areas of Time and Space."

By October, 1932, with the intensification of Hitlerite propaganda in the United States, Pelley changed the title of "The New Liberator" to that of "Liberation," and began his anti-Jewish attacks. He urged people to read Henry Ford's books on "The International Jew" and the speeches made in Congress by Representative MacFadden of Pennsylvania. He warned Christians of the plot to overthrow Christian governments.

His most vicious attacks of the Jew came with Hitler's rise to power, when, as I have already indicated, Pelley launched his Silver Shirt organization. He went so far as to state that Henry Ford had never signed a statement of apology to the Jews, that the statement was non-existent and that Ford was being reported in Washington and elsewhere as never having signed such an apology. The letter to which he refers, is in the archives of the American Jewish Committee, having been addressed by Mr. Ford, on June 30th, 1927, to the late Louis Marshall, then president of the Committee. As recently as May 15th, of this year, Mr. Ford re-iterated his disavowal of the material on "The International Jew," that had been issued by the Dearborn Publishing Company.

Pelley went so far as to lay at the door of the Jew, the death of Senator

Dwight Morrow. A "Confidential Official Despatch" expressed that charge in these words:

"In American there are hundreds of men who see nothing extraordinary that Senator Morrow "happened" to be stricken fatally the day after his attendance at a Jewish banquet."

The trend of his attacks and their comfort can be readily deduced from the following headlines chosen from the last few copies of "Liberation":

"The Mystery of the Civil War and Lincoln's Death."

"Silver Shirts Will Repudiate Jewish Russia's Recognition."

"Get the Name of Every Jew who Intimidates A Gentile."

"The Silver Shirts Re-write the Declaration of Independence."

"Will there be a Slaughter of Gentiles in America?"

"Facts you should know about the Gold Standard."

"Roosevelt Gold Bill attempts to Legalize Robbery."

"Will we be made to fight Japan to conserve Red Russia's Army?"

"California will suffer if the Jews embroil us with Japan."

"The World problem is a matter of Race."

"Not State Socialization, but Protocolism."

The Silver Shirt organization set up by Pelley, spread throughout the country to such an extent as to encourage Pelley to divide the country into districts, in the drive to establish the Christ Democracy, whose office holders were to be chosen only from the ranks of its Christian Militia. "The Silver Shirts are Swarming," wrote Pelley in one of the issues of "Liberation" that sought to show how considerably that organization had grown and where the posts of its Christian Militia, in each state, were established.

In the midst of the discontent of the farmers in the Middle-West, Pelley hastened to found another publication, "The Silver Rangers," in Oklahoma City, but lack of support compelled him to transfer the office of the new publication further west to Los Angeles, where there was a considerable pro-Nazi group. This affiliation with the Nazis in that district, developed opposition to Pelley from within his own ranks. This

opposition group resented any tie-up with the Hitlerites, insisting that the Silver Rangers remain a purely American movement. It even attempted to oust Pelley from control of "The Silver Ranger," while he was absent in the East.

The next blow suffered by Pelley was on April 25th of this year, when the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania refused the application of the Silver Shirts for a charter in that state. Among the organizations that signed the protest to the Secretary of the Commonwealth was the Zion Lutheran Church of Pennsylvania.

The severest of all set-backs experienced by Pelley, affected the center of his activities - his offices at Asheville, North Carolina, and "Liberation," the official organ of the Silver Shirts.

On April 24th of this year, the Judge of the United States District Court at Asheville, signed an order directing the United States Marshal to take possession of all property of the Galahad Press, Inc., publisher of "Liberation." A few days later, a petition was presented to the court, asking that the Galahad Press be declared a bankrupt. On May 2nd, Judge Webb of the Federal Court adjudged the Galahad Press a bankrupt. On May 23rd, a grand jury in Asheville, indicted Pelley on sixteen counts of alleged violation of the blue-sky laws of North Carolina. When this indictment was returned, Pelley was in California, but two of his aides were seized and released under bond. One of the chief counts was that of selling alleged worthless stock of the Galahad Press, and for stating in advertisements in "Liberation" the amount of dividends, interest and earnings that these securities would yield. The next step in the case against Pelley occurred on May 24th, when Judge Michael Schenck of the Superior Court, signed an order, impounding the records and correspondence of the Silver Shirts of America, the Foundation for Christian Economics and the Galahad Press, Inc. Up to that time, the representatives of the court were still endeavoring to reach Pelley.

There has been present, in the United States, not alone this indirect influence of Hitlerism upon the American people, through Pelley, the Silver Shirts and "Liberation." There was a direct influence, exercised by the Nazis themselves. For

several years before Hitler had gained the Chancellorship, the White forces were at work in the United States. The climax of that activity came in September, 1932, when Hitler issued a decree, officially establishing a Nazi Party Auxiliary in the United States.

The ramifications of both the native American and Nazi campaigns against the Jew in the United States, have been extensive. No medium was overlooked in their carefully worked out plans to poison the minds of the American people against the Jew. When the Jews of the United States officially voiced their protests against the program of Hitlerism in Germany, the offensive of the pro-Nazi groups in the United States became more bitter and vicious. The Nazi followers here were blinding themselves to the fact that we were not attacking the German people. We were merely declaring our resentment at seeing any government turn the clock of civilization backward, by reducing any portion of its citizenry to the position of tolerated guests and denying them the opportunity to participate in and contribute toward the main stream of national life.

The activities of pro-Nazi propagandists in the United States sought to conceal the true trends of Germany's legislative and other acts against her Jewish population and to belittle the gravity and heinousness of what had occurred throughout the length and breadth of Germany. The most effective document for counteracting this misleading propaganda was the first White Book issued by the American Jewish Committee, under the title of "The Jews in Nazi Germany". It was a solid, factual citation of official German and other records, against which no propagandist's perversions could possibly stand up. The reception accorded this White Book by the American press and non-Jewish leaders of opinion, indicates the effectiveness of the Committee's publication.

The methods of the pro-Nazi forces in this country ran the gamut of a scurrilous letter campaign, the publication of an English supplement by German papers, the importation of tons of literature from Germany and the circulation of propagandists on the lecture platforms. The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, an alleged document on the plot of the international Jew to overthrow governments and gain control of civil

zation, was again distributed among the American people. It was from that alleged document that the Dearborn Independent had drawn much of its material. The fact that Mr. Henry Ford, in 1927, as previously cited, had repudiated his articles on "The International Jew", based so largely on these Protocols, served as no deterrent of the Nazi element's utilization of that discredited material.

The magazine TODAY, properly characterized the activities of the pro-Nazis in the United States as an invasion of our country. Under the title of "Hitlerism Invades America", that publication presented a series of disclosures which concluded with the observation that the preaching of the doctrines of Hitlerism, fundamentally and completely in conflict with the political and social principles of America, was going on systematically throughout the United States.

The use by the Nazi groups, of uniforms of a military character and the employment of terroristic methods in a number of instances, have served to incite riots in a number of sections of the United States. The Friends of New Germany and the German-American Protective Alliance (the DAWA counter-boycott organization) are aiming at convincing the people of the United States that the criticism of and opposition to the tendencies of the Hitlerite government are wholly Jewish in interest and inspiration. The activities of these two organizations have gone even beyond that. They have been guilty of a far greater crime - that of endeavoring to divide the American people into hostile camps, breaking the many years of close friendship and understanding between the Jews and the German-Americans in the United States. The close bond between them, inspired by the spirit of a Carl Schurz, a relentless foe of intolerance and despotism, has been considerably weakened. Jews have been virtually forced out of German-American cultural and other organizations. On this injection of Hitlerite influence into the United States, an outstanding newspaper, such as the Baltimore Sun, was quoted in the New York Times of Sunday May 27th, 1934, as follows:

"What the Hitlerites hope to gain by their demonstrations in this country is not at all clear. Certainly they cannot believe that they have any chance of establishing a Nazi regime in the United States. If this country ever does turn

Fascist, its fascism will be of the native variety. And, indeed, the definition of the term Fascist itself requires that it be based on ultra-patriotism - chauvinism, which naturally leaves no room for any influence from Berlin or from German - Americans living in this country.

"It is strange that the Germans, competent in other fields, appear to have no sound political sense."

It is a matter of gratification to see the Protestant, Catholic and non-sectarian liberal bodies of the United States place themselves on record at various times, in denunciation of the acts and trends of the present German government. Those declarations are unimpeachable evidence of the fact that the opposition to Hitlerism is not the limited one of the Jews, but the broader one of an outraged civilization.

At the outset of this paper, I had called attention to the fact that until the advent of Hitler's control of Germany, no attempt had been made in the United States to foist upon the Jew, the blame for our economic ills. The coming into power at Washington, in 1933, of a new administration, with a political program that was opposed by a large section of American citizens, gave rise to another type of attack against the Jews of the United States. In its essence, it was similar to the attack that had carried the Nazi party to victory in Germany. It was the centuries-old tactic of making the Jew the scape-goat. In view of the unpopularity of many measures and policies of the present administration, various groups sought to discredit the administration by urging that the power behind the president was a Jew and that his counsellors were largely Jewish. Pelley attacked the Roosevelt administration and the Jews on these grounds.

The economic basis of this form of attack on the Jew here, was employed even on the floor of the United States Congress, by Representative L. T. McFadden, On May 29th 1933. That address without the reply from Dr. Cyrus Adler, president of the Committee, which had been ordered entered in the Congressional Record, has been widely distributed, under the franking privileges of a Congressman. Several native American organizations,

that are known to be wholly out of sympathy with current political trends in the United States, cooperated in the distribution of that address.

The most important of these native American organizations are the Order of '76, the Crusaders for Economic Liberty, the Khaki Shirts, the Silver Shirts, the Liberators and the Vigilantes, the latter two being found on the coast; the Elus Shirts in the Middle West; the Nationalists in Texas and in New York. Their establishment has stimulated the revival of the Ku Klux Klan, but not with the strength it had enjoyed in the period shortly after the World War. The Khaki Shirts, who openly boast of their plan to oust President Roosevelt and to set up a dictatorship of their own, have suffered a damaging blow in the conviction of their leader, Art J. Smith, for perjury in a murder case. He received a sentence of 3 to 6 years in the Sing Sing prison of New York State. The Order of '76, whose official organ is "The Awakener," has centered its attack on the policies of the Roosevelt administration and has participated in anti-Jewish activities. A letter, purporting to authorize the consummation of a merger between the Order of '76 and the Silver Shirts, was denied in the magazine "Today," by Royal Scott Gulden, one of the leaders of the Order. The Crusaders for Economic Liberty, with headquarters at Chattanooga, have threatened to fight the Jew because its leader claims the Jews are opposing his economic program.

Other activities that fertilized the soil for anti-Jewish feeling were the participation of Jews in the Scottsboro case, in industrial disturbances and in radical political movements. The presence of any Jewish labor agents in any industrial conflict led invariably to the charge that the workers had been led to strike by communists and, inferentially, by Jews. That argument has been employed by strike breaking organizations, without any concern as to its damaging effect upon the entire population of Jews in the United States. Studies of the political tendencies and affiliations of the Jews here have convincingly disproven the assertion that Jews are largely communists. The statement is so groundless that no serious student of American political life entertains it with any degree of seriousness.

Publications not identified with any particular organizations and voicing both anti-Jewish tendencies and opposition to the Washington administration, have also made their appearance and editorial policies of existing publications have been altered in these same directions. Industrial information bureaus, in letters to clients, have carried gossip that reflects resentment of the presence of Jews in some posts at Washington and links the Jew with communism and socialism.

Through the Committee of Investigation authorized in the Spring of 1934, by the House of Representatives, the American public is being afforded an opportunity to judge for itself the nature, extent and gravity of the Nazi activities in the United States and the relationship that may exist between those activities and those of the native American organizations, such as the Order of '76, Christian Crusaders and Silver Shirts. Under the chairmanship of Representative John W. McCormack of Massachusetts, that investigation is already well under way. Its findings are being awaited by a widespread public.

There are two re-assuring facts to be recorded, in telling the story of anti-Jewish movements in the United States up to the present date. The first is that no book, comparable to Hitler's vitriolic attack on the Jew, has been able to make its appearance in the United States and sweep public opinion, as the Nazi leader's book did in Germany. There is no evidence that such a book has even been written and offered to any American publisher.

The second re-assuring fact is that, though items about the various anti-Jewish organizations have appeared in the American press, no newspaper has committed itself to a policy of attack against the Jew. On the contrary, the press has uniformly condemned it. Both of these facts are unmistakable indices of the sanity of the preponderant American public opinion, and of its firm opposition to the subterfuge of making any particular element of our population, the scape-goat in this period of political, social and economic reconstruction in the United States. Protestant, Catholic and Jew walked hand in hand in the recent observation of a National Brotherhood Day, under the leadership of the National Conference of Jews and Christians. Leaders of American opinio

such as Carrie Chapman Catt, Sherwood Eddy, Raymond Moley, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Reverend Harry Emerson Fosdick, Michael Williams and a host of others have spoken out in emphatic protest against the developments here and abroad. Their utterances are making our citizens aware of the fact that this democracy is made up of heterogeneous elements that bear a common responsibility, that of strengthening the unity of the American people instead of turning our country into a house divided against itself. These temperate and justice-loving leaders of American opinion, imbued with a deathless loyalty and devotion to the ideals of the founders of this democracy, the ideals that inspired a William Penn, a Roger Williams, and a Thomas Jefferson, the ideals that drew to these shores a Carl Schurz, a Garibaldi and an Isaac M. Wise, -- refuse to let the ruthless despotisms and religious and racial hatreds of Europe, be transplanted to these shores.

As we take encouragement and inspiration from these facts, we must not allow ourselves to become lax in our duties. The situation is one that calls for a continuance of our vigilance. It is of no avail to have men and women of eminence speak out in the interest of justice in these issues while millions are being misled by the most gigantic combination of propogands that has ever hurled its attacks against the Jew. We must not, diminish in the slightest degree, the comprehensive program we have been maintaining to guard ourselves, the entire American people and, in truth, the entire human family against the spread of the poison of race hatreds.

The Committee's experience of these 28 years has taught it that no development must be ignored. Its experience urges it to say to you who are assembled here, to cooperate with it even more broadly and to hold up its hands with the same loyalty that you have manifested in the past years and in these recent two years. The American public looks to us to set it aright when the agents of intolerance stride through this land. The Committee will not fail in the performance of its responsibility, a responsibility that extends to our children and to our children's children, if you will walk with it in counsel, in generous moral and financial support, in cooperative activity and in understanding.