

ANTI-JEWISH AGITATION

EXPLOITING A VARIETY of domestic and world tensions and issues, during the period of this review (December 1, 1956, to November 30, 1957) anti-Jewish agitators maintained a volume and degree of anti-Semitic activity equal to that of preceding years. As in previous years, the anti-Semites continued to attack such targets as the United Nations, the President and his administration, the Status of Forces Treaty of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) which ceded jurisdiction over American armed forces to the countries where they were stationed, the income tax, "socialist" laws regulating labor relations, fluoridation of drinking water, and mental health projects. These targets were invariably described as "Jewish conspiracies to rule the world." The agitators assailed Jews and Jewish communities as being Communist-dominated and serving Soviet aims. Simultaneously, Jews were charged with dominating Communism and the Soviet government in order to "enslave the world."

There were three chief situations that the organized anti-Semitic movement exploited during 1956-57: the desegregation tensions of the South; the economic antipathies of ultra-conservatives for both major political parties; and the efforts of Arab and pro-Arab propagandists to denigrate the American Jewish community.

Southern Tensions

Hatemongers' activities kept pace with the mounting troubles of the South over the desegregation of its public schools, ordered by the Supreme Court's decisions of 1954 and 1955 (*see* p. 40). Anti-Semitic literature gravitated to certain areas of the South, especially those where the resentment of white-supremacists was likely to erupt into violence. The agitators' pamphlets, leaflets, and fliers charged that Jews were responsible for a "conspiracy to mongrelize the nation" in pursuance of Communist aims. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was described as the creation and tool of "the Jews"; the Jews were also depicted as having "ordered" the Supreme Court to decree desegregation. Such racist writings were most in evidence in Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, and Texas. In the fall of 1957 the propaganda was also prevalent in Arkansas and Tennessee.

The vast bulk of the anti-Semitic and anti-Negro literature in evidence in the South during 1956-57 was published by agitators from non-Southern regions: e.g., Frank L. Britton (Inglewood, Calif.), Conde McGinley (Union, N. J.), John W. Hamilton (St. Louis, Mo.), and Gerald L. K. Smith (Glendale, Calif.). The products of Britton, McGinley, and Smith attained the largest circulation.

Extensive dissemination of such literature was mainly due to the efforts of elements within the White Citizens Council movement and the Ku Klux

Klan and their sympathizers, who had purchased the propaganda in bulk. The literature was sometimes obtained from a local or itinerant "wholesaler." Large quantities invariably accompanied the visits of such racist rabble rousers as Frederick John Kasper to tension spots. In one instance, while Kasper was being arraigned in a Federal court in Knoxville, Tenn. (December 6, 1956), Joe Diehl, an over-enthusiastic supporter, was arrested for distributing Conde McGinley's *Coming Red Dictatorship* in the courtroom.

WHITE CITIZENS COUNCILS

The White Citizens Council movement continued to be a congeries of local units, including the extreme activist type. Estimates of WCC membership ranged from 300,000 to 500,000; the largest groups were in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, the Carolinas, and Arkansas, in that order. Dedicated to the preservation of "white supremacy," some councils denounced violence, reiterating their objective of preserving segregation "by all legal means." Other councils, however, appeared to be merely disguised Klans.

WCC units (most designated themselves as "Citizens' Councils") were especially active in such areas of tension as Clinton, Tenn., where disturbances over the integration of the high school reached a climax on December 4, 1956, when a minister was assaulted; Nashville, Tenn., where public school integration plans proceeded (September 1957) only after the law enforcement authorities had quelled demonstrations and disorders that included the dynamiting of a school building; Greensboro, N. C. (September 1957), where the executive secretary of the local WCC incited high school students to demonstrate against the admission of a single Negro student; and Little Rock, Ark., where WCC members of that city and surrounding localities distributed large quantities of hate-literature during the disturbances attendant upon high school integration there.

Several WCC's issued their own publications. These included the Tennessee and Knoxville White Citizens Councils' *Knoxville On Guard* (November 1956), which advertised the anti-Jewish forgery, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, for sale.

Some WCC units appeared to be largely tolerated, if not accepted, as part of the local scene in many cities and towns of the South, increasing in numbers and public notice during periods of tension, declining during periods of quiet.

THE KU KLUX KLAN

Klan growth and activity rose sharply during 1956-57, estimates of over-all membership running as high as 100,000. Not as well organized as the Klan movements of the '20s or the '40s, regional or state Klans tended to fragmentize into loose federations, despite the claims of Imperial Wizard Eldon L. Edwards of Atlanta, Ga., and various Grand Dragons elsewhere, that they headed the entire movement.

Klan activities mainly consisted of nocturnal cross-burnings aimed at whites as well as Negroes; motorcades, followed by informal visits to towns in full regalia; demonstrations ("Klonvocations") attended by audiences of from several hundred to several thousand, at which visiting dignitaries de-

nounced Negroes, Jews, and sometimes Catholics (at these demonstrations the hate-literature of non-Southern agitators such as Conde McGinley and Frank L. Britton was invariably distributed); dynamiting, flogging, and other acts of extreme terror and violence.

Among the Klan groups in operation were Edwards' U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan; the Association of South Carolina Klans, headed by Grand Dragon Robert E. Hodges of Columbia, S. C.; the Association of Florida Klans, led by Grand Dragon Bill Hendrix; the Gulf Klans Association, presided over by Elmo C. Barnard of Mobile, Ala.; and Asa ("Ace") Carter's Original Klans of the Confederacy in Birmingham. Edwards' U. S. Klans suffered a schism in Alabama in June 1957 over the marriage of Grand Dragon Alvin Horn to a fifteen-year-old girl; the dissident members formed the Alabama Ku Klux Klan, Inc.

The instances of Klan activity during 1956-57 are too numerous to detail here, but the following are illustrative: Florida was subjected to many Klan meetings, especially during February and March 1957; the demonstrations were designed not only to attract a following, but also to "answer" the inaugural address of Governor LeRoy Collins (January 8, 1957). In this address Governor Collins asserted that school integration was inevitable, though not in the near future. Several of these demonstrations were addressed by Frederick John Kasper, who was generally assisted by Fred B. Hockett, at that time Kasper's White Citizen Council organizer for Florida. In advance of an impending visit of Kasper to Miami, Klan leader Hendrix publicly announced (March 4, 1957) that he would send "thirty riflemen to protect him." On February 25, 1957, police prevented attempts to burn a cross in front of the home of a Negro in Miami because it was located in a formerly white section. Hockett was among those arrested for this act. On bail, he organized picketing of the home.

In Americus, Ga., an interracial farm colony, Koinonia, was subjected to Klan bombings, shootings, and cross-burnings through most of 1956-57. In Birmingham, Ala., the mutilation of a Negro (September 2, 1957), selected at random to prove a Klansman eligible for promotion in the order, resulted in the conviction of two Klansmen (October-November 1957); they were sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment.

In Camden, S. C. (December 1956), a high school teacher was seized by five hooded Klansmen, tied to a tree, and severely flogged "for teaching integration." Crosses were burnt in front of a Baptist church in Tallahassee, Fla. (January 1957); a Methodist Church at Sylacauga, Ala. (June 1957); three Negro homes at Nashville, Tenn. (October 1957); and five Negro homes in Prattville, Ala., the same month. In Monroe, N. C. (October 5, 1957), a Klan motorcade invaded the Negro section, an exchange of shots ensuing.

The Aryan Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, a lone operation of agitator Horace Sherman Miller of Waco, Tex., was evidence of the impact of Klan leaflets in highly varied localities. Miller compiled mailing lists and sent out vituperative anti-Semitic literature throughout the United States and to different parts of the world. In May 1957, pranksters distributed Miller's leaflets in England, in areas where there had been a large influx of West Indian Negroes. The British government and its consul general in New

York deemed it necessary to deny the existence of the Klan in Great Britain. Again, in October 1957, Miller sent letters in Spanish to Argentina, advising that the "Grand Dragon of Argentina" had declared "war" on the Jews. Klan elements of Birmingham, Ala., adopted Miller's anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic literature for their own use, though virtually all other Klans relied on the propaganda of non-Southern anti-Semitic publicists.

Klan-like activities were not confined to the deep South. A fiery cross was burned before the executive mansion of Governor Theodore R. McKeldin of Maryland (October 6, 1957), while a cross was ignited at the residence of an official of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Washington, D. C., on September 26, 1957. The home of a Negro couple in Trenton, N. J., received similar treatment on November 8, 1957. In Levittown, Pa., during September and October 1957, when a Negro couple, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Myers, acquired a home in that all-white community, large "KKK" letters were painted on the side of the home of a friendly next-door neighbor, Lewis Wechsler; several crosses were burned on the lawns of other neighbors. During this period, when partisans of both sides were holding meetings and there were demonstrations and other harassments of the Negro couple, agitators shipped large quantities of their literature into the area for distribution.

Despite the Klan's notoriety, and despite the fact that in April 1949 the United States attorney general had listed two predecessor Klans as having "adopted a policy of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force or violence," the Klan appeared to be accepted in one area. The Ku Klux Klan's softball team of Chattanooga achieved semi-final standing in the Softball League, according to reports dated August 14, 1957. Earlier in the season, however, several commercial firms withdrew from the league because of the Klan's participation.

John Frederick Kasper

Kasper was the most peripatetic and inflammatory anti-Semitic rabble-rouser in the South during 1956-57, appearing throughout the region, especially in states and cities undergoing integration tensions. Kasper attained his first nation-wide notoriety in Clinton, Tenn., in August, 1956, by leading segregationists in their opposition to the integration of the high school there. He subsequently became involved in a similar incident in that city during December 1956. Convicted of two offenses of contempt of court for violation of a Federal injunction against interference with school integration at Clinton, Kasper, at large on bonds pending appeals, visited other areas, especially Florida, Alabama, and Tennessee. At Nashville (September 1957) he was arrested and charged with inciting to riot in the course of violence attendant upon public school integration there. On October 18, 1957, Kasper was taken into custody by Federal authorities in Washington, D. C., and on November 21, 1957, he was sent to the Federal Correctional Institution at Tallahassee, Fla., to serve an eighteen-month term in connection with his violations of the injunction against interference with integration at Clinton, Tenn. Kasper, as head of the Seaboard White Citizens Councils, was forced to admit

in an inquiry conducted by a Florida Legislative Investigating Committee (March, 1957), that during the time he operated a bookshop in the Greenwich Village section of New York, Negroes had been among his closest friends, and that he had attended parties and other social affairs with Negroes. This official revelation caused some defection in Kasper's following in the WCC movement and among Klans, though not sufficient to impede his subsequent activities in such places as Nashville.

Politics

Anti-Semites continued their endeavors during 1956-57 to influence extreme right-wing political movements, exploiting the drive of economic ultra-conservatives and pro-segregationists to fuse into a political bloc under the slogan of states' rights.

The Congress of Freedom, an amalgam of such groups, held its annual convention at Biloxi, Miss., on April 18, 1957. There it was announced that the Constitution Party was being reorganized, with New York industrialist Russell Maguire as its national chairman. Maguire's magazine, *American Mercury*, frequently contained matter such as this quotation from its July 1957 issue:

Privately, the international Zionists claim they have the power and the concentrated wealth to do as they please throughout the world. Then why haven't they destroyed international communism instead of financing it?

Reporting his dissatisfaction over the Congress of Freedom convention, however, anti-Semitic newsletter publisher Don Bell (Palm Beach, Fla.) complained (*Don Bell Reports*, April 26, 1957) that the "three-letter-word" [Jew] was not used by the speakers.

The Constitution Party's convention, held at San Francisco on May 31 and June 1, 1957, featured as its principal speakers Russell Maguire and Lt. Gen. Pedro A. del Valle (USMC, ret.). Maguire denounced "internationalist bankers," whom he charged with having planned both World Wars and with plotting "to destroy the United States and Christianity." Del Valle also attacked "private international bankers" and "internationalism," warning of future violence in the streets unless the present political situation was changed. Later, del Valle, according to a report in *The San Francisco News* (June 2, 1957) explained, "It won't be us who start it. But we're going to fight back." A high light of the convention was the extensive distribution of inflammatory literature by Conde McGinley, a nondelegate.

The difficulty ultra-conservative groups encountered in dissociating themselves from anti-Semites was suggested by Elizabeth Dilling in her newsletter for September 1957. Writing of the convention the right-wing group We, The People had held earlier that month in Chicago, Mrs. Dilling explained that she and Lyrl Van Hyning, leader of a vitriolic "mothers' group," had rented accommodations in the same hotel as the convention where "literature" was available.

Admiral John G. Crommelin, Jr. (ret.), who unsuccessfully ran in the 1956 Alabama primaries for Senator Lister Hill's seat, announced his intention

of running for the Governorship of that state, according to a letter from General George Van Horn Moseley (ret.) that appeared in the September 1957 issue of *Women's Voice* (Chicago). Crommelin, a character witness at the Knoxville trial of Kasper for sedition in November 1956,¹ sat on the platform at two Gerald L. K. Smith meetings during 1957—at Los Angeles on April 11, 1957, and at Dallas on June 14, 1957. Moseley, in an interview in the racist monthly *The Virginian* (July 1957), called for the creation of a new party:

I recommend strongly that all those good loyal Americans be gathered into a Revolutionary Party. It could sweep the nation. Under such a party, suffrage could be withdrawn from certain classes. The unfit could be sterilized and not permitted to breed. Our frontiers could be closed definitely except for certain selected Nordics.

Asa ("Ace") Carter, Klan and White Citizens' Council leader of Birmingham, Ala., was overwhelmingly defeated when he ran in the elections for police commissioner of that city (May 1957).

Pro-Arab Propaganda

Anti-Semites stepped up their exploitation of Near East tensions during 1956-57; they continued to allege a "Jewish-Zionist-Communist conspiracy" to embroil the major powers in the Middle East and start a "third World War." Paralleling the official Arab line, such propaganda ignored the involvement of Arab countries with the Soviet Union and its satellites. Representative of this approach was the March 1, 1957, issue of *Common Sense*.

That official Arab sources welcomed such efforts was evidenced by a number of incidents. The following were typical: James Madole's openly Nazi National Renaissance Party in New York City sold and distributed official Arab propaganda in bulk. The material included the writings of Nasser and *Zionist Espionage in Egypt*, an anti-Jewish pamphlet originating in Egypt which had originally appeared in 1955. Madole's *National Renaissance Bulletin* for March-April 1957 viciously attacked Israel as "the vampire state" which drained other countries of its resources.

Gerald L. K. Smith, in the July 1957 issue of his *The Cross and the Flag* (Glendale, Calif.), prefaced an autobiographical article by Sami Hadawi, an official of the Arab Palestine Refugee Office (APRO), with the comment:

It was the pleasure of the editors of *The Cross and the Flag* to visit personally with Mr. Hadawi, whose story we reproduce herewith.

The writings of Izzat Tannous, another official of the APRO, appeared in the May and June 1957 issues of *The Defender* (Wichita, Kans.), publication of Gerald Winrod,² once known as "the Jayhawk Nazi."

APRO's monthly *Newsletter*, bearing Foreign Agent Registration No. 897, in its issue of January 1957 charged that "Party politics in the United States made the Democratic President [Harry S. Truman] succumb to Zionist pres-

¹ Kasper was acquitted.

² Died November 11, 1957.

sure." The September 1957 issue of the *APRO Newsletter* prominently displayed a commendatory letter from H. Keith Thompson, one-time registered agent in the United States for the Socialist Reich Party, dissolved in October 1952 by the Bonn government because of its Nazi complexion.

Specific Agitators

Imperial Wizard Eldon L. Edwards of the U. S. Klans appeared on an interview program over a nationwide television network, expounding his views while garbed in Klan regalia (May 5, 1957). James A. Madole, ardent pro-Nazi leader of the National Renaissance Party, appeared on two similar programs in the New York City area, one on radio (July 29, 1957), the other on television (July 30, 1957). In the June-July 1957 issue of his *National Renaissance Bulletin*, Madole boasted that he "got across a tremendous amount of information on racial questions," and that the television station had admitted that "the listener response was exceptionally heavy and spontaneous."

John W. Hamilton, St. Louis publisher of racist material for Southern distribution, was convicted of a morals offense in that city (February 20, 1957) and given a two-year sentence. At the time of writing (November 1957), he was still out on bail pending appeals.

David T. Wang, a young actor of Chinese descent, and Robert L'Hommedieu, both of the New York City area, attempted to found an "Ivy League" branch of Kasper's White Citizens' Council in New York (July 1957). There was no evidence that they had succeeded by November 1957. Wang addressed a forum at Columbia University (October 29, 1957) on the import of Kasper's theories.

Anti-Semitic Press

The anti-Semitic press achieved a somewhat higher level of circulation during 1956-57 than during 1955-56, largely because of the intensified distribution of literature exploiting desegregation tensions in the South. Among the products most widely distributed were the one-sheet photo-offset leaflets of Frank L. Britton, and a large broadside, *The Coming Red Dictatorship*, put out by Conde McGinley. These were accompanied by still another McGinley product, a leaflet titled *Jew Religion Exposed*. Gerald L. K. Smith continued his publishing enterprise with unabated vigor, his Christian Nationalist Crusade reporting a gross of almost \$174,000 for 1956; Smith's fundraising letters, widely mailed throughout the United States, supplemented his *The Cross and The Flag* as vehicles for "revelations" of "Jewish plots." One of Smith's leaflets was entitled *A Petition to Impeach Chief Justice Warren, Justice Felix Frankfurter and Others*, and contained lines for signatures. The Keep America Committee of Los Angeles made a specialty of reproducing selected items of various agitators and giving them additional distribution. Leonard E. Feeney, excommunicated priest from Boston, continued his monthly *The Point*, containing anti-Semitic matter as venomous as it was well-written. *Destiny*, the organ of the mystic Anglo-Saxon Federation

(Haverhill, Mass.), frequently contained anti-Semitic references along with its interpretations of the Bible. The same was true of J. A. Lovell's *Kingdom Digest* (Dallas, Tex.); both of these periodicals were unusually well-printed. Another bigoted periodical worthy of mention was William L. Blessing's *Showers of Blessing* (Denver, Col.), which was skillfully designed. Regularly issued during 1956-57 were Frank L. Britton's *American Nationalist* (Inglewood, Calif.), Robert H. Williams' monthly newsletter *Williams Intelligence Summary* (Santa Ana, Calif.) and Elizabeth Dilling's mimeographed *Newsletter*.

Generally, there was a greater tendency toward the use of the photo-offset process and the reproduction of old pictures and cartoons. Agitators resorted more to the leaflet as a quicker, more pungent manner of delivering "the message." There also appeared to be a greater tendency toward reviving and circulating old pamphlets, including those of the late George W. Armstrong of Dallas, Tex. Such staples of bigotry as the Benjamin Franklin forgery, the speech attributed to a fictitious "Rabbi Rabinovich," and the infamous *Protocols* were widely circulated.

Joseph P. Kamp continued the extensive circulation of his 1955 pamphlet, *Behind the Plot to Sovietize the South*. He followed it up with two new pamphlets of equal size and format: *Trickery, Treachery, Tyranny, and Treason in Washington*, published during the spring of 1957, and *The Low-down on Little Rock and the Plot to Sovietize the South*, published during the fall of 1957. The latter pamphlet was distinguished for its references to the memory of Adolf Hitler:

Some intemperate Southern leaders have compared Dwight Eisenhower to Adolf Hitler. . . . They are wrong. . . . Hitler had the constitutional right to use Nazi storm troopers in any way he pleased. Eisenhower has no such right to use Federal troops in Arkansas.

Also published during the fall of 1957 was a luxurious seventy-two page pamphlet, *The Ultimate World Order*, by Robert H. Williams.

During 1956-57, *The Virginian* (Newport News, Va.) changed from newspaper to magazine format with its September 1957 issue. Other publications of recent origin included: *The Southerner*, published by Asa ("Ace") Carter at Birmingham, Ala.; *The Revere*, published from Hinsdale, Ill., by Guy Allen Mann; *The News Behind the News*, anti-Masonic as well as anti-Semitic, published at Willowdale, Ont., by William Guy Carr; and *Banner of Truth*, bi-monthly publication of the Dallas Klan. *The Banner of Truth* described the advantages of Klan membership in the following terms:

If you are a Klansman, and you feel you want to enlighten other Klansmen on the Jewish menace, you may do so with the full assurance that there will not be a single Jew in the Klavern to impose upon you.

GEORGE KELLMAN