

Finale to the Ellis Case

The celebrated Hildy McCoy Ellis case finally came to a quiet close on July 10, 1957, when Florida Circuit Court Judge John W. Prunty signed a decree making Hildy the legally-adopted child of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin B. Ellis. Asked in what religious faith the child would be reared, the Ellises told the court that she would choose her religion herself when she was old enough.

PHILIP JACOBSON

ANTI-JEWISH AGITATION

A MARKED INCREASE of anti-Jewish agitation was noted during the period of this review (December 1, 1957, to November 30, 1958), mainly attributable to sustained exploitation of Southern desegregation tensions by anti-Semites. Other anti-Semitic propaganda themes included attacks upon the United Nations and its agencies as tools of "Jews and Communists"; anti-Israel, anti-Jewish, pro-Arab, and pro-Nasser interpretation of the tensions in the Middle East; attacks upon the income tax, collective bargaining, and public welfare programs, designed to attract the sympathy of ultra-conservatives, and "states' rights," appealing to Southerners. The unifying propaganda line was the "Jewish-Communist-Zionist world conspiracy" theme—in effect, a modernization of the notorious Protocols of the Elders of Zion forgery.

The South

Anti-Semitic agitation in the South increased with desegregation tensions. The bulk of the hatemongers' activity continued to be extensive distribution of flyers, leaflets, and pamphlets. As in previous years, this matter originated for the most part in the North—Union, N. J. (Conde McGinley) and Inglewood, Calif. (Frank L. Britton). It was circulated in a variety of ways: by mail, often to general mailing lists; in bulk, to local "wholesalers"; by hand, at meetings and demonstrations, and by surreptitious placement in public conveyances, in mail-boxes, and under doors. Large quantities of such literature invariably accompanied the visits of hatemongers.

Synagogue Bombings

Five bombings and three attempted bombings of synagogues were perpetrated between November 11, 1957, and October 14, 1958. Seven of the synagogues were in the South and one in the Midwest. None of the cases had been solved at this writing, although five men had been indicted and were awaiting trial. Fortunately, no deaths or injuries resulted. These incidents should be considered against a background of more than 80 bombings in the South since the Supreme Court's May 1954 decision on desegregation.

In Charlotte, N. C., on Monday, November 11, 1957, a bomb constructed

of six dynamite sticks enclosed in a metal container was placed outside Temple Beth-El. It was discovered before it could explode.

In Gastonia, N. C., early Sunday morning, February 9, 1958, police discovered a valise containing 30 sticks of dynamite at an entrance to Temple Emanuel.

In Miami early Sunday morning, March 16, 1958, a bomb explosion caused extensive damage to the school portion of Temple Beth-El. About an hour after the outrage, an anonymous caller phoned a rabbi, informing him of the bombing and warning that other advocates of integration would get similar treatment.

In Nashville, Tenn., in the evening of the same day, the Jewish Community Center's building suffered severe bomb damage, shortly after a meeting had ended and the people had gone home. A rabbi then received a telephone call from "a member of the Confederate Union" taking credit for the explosion, and threatening the Temple and "any other nigger-loving place or person in Nashville" as well. A similar call was received by a reporter.

In Jacksonville, Fla., early Monday morning, April 28, 1958, a bomb exploded outside the Jewish Center, damaging the structure. An hour later, a Negro school was bombed. Almost simultaneously, a reporter received a call from "a member of the Confederate Underground," informing him of the bombings and declaring that "Jews must be driven out of Florida except in Miami Beach . . . the bombings will continue until segregation is restored everywhere in the South."

In Birmingham, Ala., later the same day, a bomb consisting of over 50 sticks of high-power dynamite, enclosed in a valise, was discovered in a window-well of Temple Beth-El. Soaked by an overnight rainfall, it had failed to detonate. Had it done so, it would have leveled the entire structure.

In Atlanta, Ga., early Sunday morning, October 12, 1958, the school section of The Temple, the leading Reform synagogue of the city, was shattered by a bomb explosion. At approximately the same time a reporter received a telephone call from "General Gordon of the Confederate Underground," who told him of the bombing, warned of others to follow, and added: "This is the last empty building I'll blow up." A similar call was later received by the radio station of the Atlanta *Constitution*.

In Peoria, Ill., on October 14, 1958, a crude bomb caused comparatively slight damage to Temple Anshei Emeth, exploding in a stairwell leading to the basement. There had been no desegregation or other intergroup tensions, and the incident was generally thought to be the work of a crank inspired by the Atlanta bombing.

Especially after the Miami and Nashville bombings, these incidents produced shock in the communities in which they occurred and brought forth an outpouring of sympathy and solidarity with the Jewish community by the entire population of each city. Reward campaigns were started and received substantial support. Mayor Hayden Burns of Jacksonville called for a conference of police and other officials of cities in which violence had recently occurred. It was held in Jacksonville on May 5, 1958, and the more than 20 Southern municipalities represented there planned a cooperative effort against such outrages.

Especially after the Atlanta incident, public revulsion assumed nationwide proportions. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, speaking in New York City at cornerstone ceremonies for the Protestant Inter-Church Building, on October 12, 1958, departed from his prepared text to say:

I think we would all share in the feeling of horror that any person would want to desecrate the holy place of any religion, be it a chapel, a cathedral, a mosque, a church, or a synagogue. . . .

The President then revealed that he had requested the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to render all possible assistance to the Atlanta police in apprehending the criminals.

Standing in the midst of The Temple's ruins, on October 12, Mayor William B. Hartsfield of Atlanta said, among other things:

Every political rabble rouser is the godfather of every sneaking dynamiter and cross-burner in the South today. . . .

He called the bombing "the end result" of demagoguery and urged "the decent people of the South to rise up and put an end to the preachers of hate and chaos."

Within a week, the following suspects were indicted, charged with the bombing of The Temple: Wallace H. Allen, 33, an advertising salesman; George Michael Bright, 35, a draftsman; Kenneth Chester Griffin, 32, an auditor in the Georgia Tax Department (since discharged), and Robert A. Bowling, 25, and Richard Bowling, 26, unemployed brothers, the latter arrested after the others. At this writing, the accused were awaiting trial.

The suspects had been connected with the National States Rights Party or associated fanatical racist groups. It was reported that at least one suspect had given a statement to authorities, and that a search of the premises of one defendant had produced highly revelatory letters and documents as well as large quantities of anti-Semitic literature.

The bombing of the Atlanta Temple led to a large number of newspaper articles and "exposés" of the anti-Semitic movement throughout the country. Though well-intentioned, these tended to give unwise personal publicity to anti-Semitic propagandists and leaders of hate movements, small and large. The publicity also apparently set in motion a series of psychotic imitative acts and threats against a variety of targets, both North and South. The Peoria incident was one example. Others were these: mysterious bomb threats came over the telephone to the Unitarian Church in Arlington, Va., and to St. Patrick's Cathedral on October 16 and the Stephen S. Wise Synagogue in New York City on October 17; a bomb fuse was found between St. Peter's Catholic Church and Trinity Episcopal Church in the downtown section of that city on October 17; on October 15 a hand grenade thrown by a juvenile delinquent exploded against the wall of a meeting place of Jehovah's Witnesses in Boston; threats were telephoned to two Protestant churches and one Catholic church in Miami on November 9. As this was written, it could not be said that the crank incidents had abated.

After the Peoria incident, actual violence was directed against public

schools. The school at Osage, W. Va., a mining community, was all but demolished on November 10 by an expertly set charge; the junior high school of Hobbs, N. M., was damaged by dynamite thrown into a classroom window on November 23; the space in a parking lot reserved for the New Orleans school superintendent was also bombed on November 24, the detonation causing damage to the adjoining medical building of the school system.

Federal officials were considering changes in legislation to curb the distribution of hate literature, but such proposals were complicated by problems involving freedom of speech. Also under consideration were laws restricting the possession, sale, transportation, and use of dynamite and other explosives, and laws conferring Federal jurisdiction over bombings in certain circumstances.

Picketing

On July 27, 1958, members of a newly-formed National Committee to Free America from Jewish Domination (NCFAJD) picketed in three cities—Atlanta, Ga., Louisville, Ky., and Washington, D. C. They carried well-lettered placards bearing messages like "Save Ike from the Kikes," as well as pro-Arab slogans. Scurrilous literature bearing the formerly unknown NCFAJD imprint was simultaneously distributed. In Atlanta two days later, five pickets were convicted of disorderly conduct for demonstrating in front of the premises of the *Atlanta Constitution*. Of these, two were later indicted for the October 12 bombing of the Atlanta Temple, George Michael Bright and Kenneth Chester Griffin. A third, Luther K. Corley, had also figured in the police investigation of the Temple bombing but had been released after intensive questioning. The other two were Billy Ray Branham and Philip L. Wilson. In Louisville, Edna Cowan and Bessie T. Morris were arrested for distributing similar literature without a license on behalf of the NCFAJD in front of the *Louisville Courier* building, while five youths demonstrated by carrying placards similar to those displayed at Atlanta. In Washington, eight demonstrators outside the White House bore the same type of hate-inciting signs. They attracted little notice and were not arrested.

A by-product of police and FBI investigation of the Atlanta Temple bombing was the identification of the leader of the NCFAJD and his backer. References to a "fat cat" in the papers of one of the suspects led the investigation to George Lincoln Rockwell, of Arlington, Va., printer and publisher of NCFAJD material as well as producer of items for followers of John Kasper (see *AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK*, 1958 [Vol. 59], pp. 108–109) and to Harold Noel Arrowsmith, Jr., of Baltimore, Md., the son of a late, respected clergyman. While denying any connection with bombings or similar violence, Rockwell said that he was attempting to organize a World Union of Free Enterprise National Socialists to determine whether "Jews are born that way, in which case they would have to be sterilized, or something. . . ." Arrowsmith, a doctrinaire Nordic supremacist, had apparently spent more than \$20,000 to buy the house from which Rockwell operated and printing equipment. He was also said to have admitted providing funds for the picketers. He denied any connection with the bombing of the Temple.

Politics

Hatemongers' use of political campaigns as a vehicle for their propaganda was much in evidence. Thus Rear Admiral John G. Crommelin (ret.) entered the Alabama gubernatorial primaries in the spring of 1958 and ran on an outright anti-Semitic platform. In more than 140 stump speeches, and in 15 television appearances, he stressed the "Communist-Jewish" theme in railing against desegregation and distributed great quantities of anti-Semitic literature, including a special edition of Conde McGinley's *Common Sense*. On primary day (May 6) Crommelin received 2,245 votes out of 618,000, but he later told his followers that he had achieved "the major objective . . . to expose the origin, nature, and aims of the Communist-Jewish conspiracy." By his own statement he had received \$9,000 in contributions. At the close of the period he was at work on plans to form a permanent political organization.

In the same primaries Asa ("Ace") Carter, the anti-Semitic leader of a White Citizens Council, received 31,000 votes out of 435,000 for lieutenant-governor.

The National States Rights Party (NSRP), a confederation of Northern and Southern racist, anti-Semitic extremists, was formed in May 1958. The first issue of its publication, *The Thunderbolt*, bore the Hitler youth insignia. Incorporating the United White party, the operational front of Chicago activist Matt Koehl, NSRP claimed units or contact points in Minneapolis, Minn., Portland, Ore., New York, N. Y., Hinsdale, Ill., Knoxville, Tenn., Greenville, S. C., and Atlanta, Ga. The tone of its convention in Louisville (August 30-31, 1958) was set by the anti-Jewish and anti-Negro rantings of Frederick John Kasper and by calls for a "draft" of Admiral Crommelin for President in 1960. Prominent at this convention were Edward R. Fields of the Christian Anti-Jewish party; Millard Grubbs of the Kentucky White Citizens Council; Dan Kurts, self-styled head of the Christian Front of Queens County, N. Y.; Bill Hendrix, a Ku Klux Klan leader, and John W. Hamilton, head of the National Citizens Protective Association. One active NSRP organizer, F. Allen Mann, of Hinsdale, Ill., publisher of *The Revere*, achieved notoriety in the spring of 1958 by putting out a leaflet with the caption, "Communism and Race Mixing are Jewish" and depicting a man hanging from a gibbet, over a heading of "Death to the Traitors!"

CHRISTIAN NATIONALIST CRUSADE

The Christian Nationalist party (alternately known as the Christian National Crusade—CNC), Gerald L. K. Smith's enterprise, reported in November from its headquarters in Glendale, Calif. to the clerk of the House of Representatives that its gross receipts for the first ten months of 1958 were approximately \$115,000. Smith featured desegregation tensions together with attacks on prominent American Jews and endless reiteration of the contents of the Protocols. Smith's advertisements, widely mailed, did not merely solicit subscriptions to his leaflets and pamphlets, but were in themselves complete anti-Semitic broadsides. Some of these ads and appeals tended to deemphasize Smith's name in favor of that of the CNC.

WHITE CITIZENS COUNCILS

Consisting mainly of self-governing local units, the WCC's as a movement maintained the same estimated numerical strength as a year earlier—between 300,000 and 500,000. Councils continued to vary with geography, affiliation, leadership, and—most importantly—the imminence of the execution of a desegregation plan. While some units strove to avoid anti-Semitism and to adhere to their avowed objective of preserving segregation “by all legal means,” other units tolerated, if they did not openly support or encourage, the distribution of hate literature by their members. The Citizens Councils of America, in Greenwood, Miss., strove to coordinate state-wide movements along non-anti-Semitic and legal lines. Its secretary, Robert B. Patterson, however, noted on February 12, 1958, that “anti-Semitic literature is now being distributed by the ton throughout the South as well as throughout the nation,” though he did not put the responsibility on segregationists.

On the other hand, the decision of the United States Court of Appeals in the Little Rock case on August 18, 1958 (see p. 23) referred to the appearance in that city of the Rev. J. A. Lovell, a Dallas rabble rouser, at the height of tensions in the fall of 1957. An ardent Gerald L. K. Smith disciple, Lovell then addressed the Capital Citizens' Council on the topic, “Must America Sell Her Birthright to Appease the Zionists and Internationalists?”, which was reprinted in the November 1957 issue of his magazine, *Kingdom Digest*. During the spring of 1958, the Seaboard White Citizens' Councils published a pamphlet, “Segregation or Death,” in tribute to their leader John Kasper, then in prison, which contained unbridled railing against the members of the Supreme Court, other Federal judges, Jews, and liberals.

But publications of this kind were not usually produced by WCC's. Typically, the vast bulk of such hate literature as was distributed had to be imported from the North, the Midwest and the West.

THE KU KLUX KLAN

Beset by schisms and public revulsion against violence, the KKK registered no progress. Many members took cover by shifting to racist groups bearing other titles. Grand Dragon Bill Hendrix of the Florida Klans reorganized the long-dormant Knights of the White Camellia in its stead.

The U. S. Klans, headed by Imperial Wizard Eldon L. Edwards of Atlanta, Ga., continued to be the largest single aggregation of Klans. At an Ellenton, Fla., Klan rally on September 7, 1958, he took care to make disclaimers of terror and violence in the course of his anti-Semitic, anti-Negro vituperation. Klan prestige was severely injured at Maxton, N. C., on January 18, 1958, when state Klan leader James W. Cole's open-air demonstration against the Lumbee Indians of the area was put to rout by their shotguns and war-whoops. Cole was later convicted of inciting to riot and given a jail sentence of 18 to 24 months, which he appealed. But the Maxton debacle did not deter Cole from attending the so-called Ultimatum Conference of Loyal Americans at Louisville, Ky., on February 1, 1958, where he shared prominent billing with

Admiral Crommelin and Millard D. Grubbs, Kentucky White Citizens Council leader.

A less farcical phase of Klan activity was evidenced by the sentencing of three Klansmen on March 20, 1958, for attempting to bomb a Negro school in Charlotte, N. C., shortly after the February 9 attempted bombing of the Gastonia synagogue. Grand Wizard Francis Caldwell received a sentence of five to ten years, while Arthur M. Brown, Jr., and William O. Spencer received two to five years; all of the convictions were appealed. From Waco, Texas, Horace Sherman Miller continued his one-man Klan operation, putting out editions of photo-offset Klan literature in quantities indicating financial support.

These screeds continued to have international effects. On May 23, 1958, Franz Heinz, self-styled Grand Dragon of Chile, and several of his followers were apprehended in Santiago. Affiliated with Miller's Aryan Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Waco, they were reported to have confessed to acts of terrorism against Chilean Jews and their property. Swastika and KKK flags were found in their possession.

JOHN KASPER

Kasper's rabble-rousing activities were curtailed during most of the year because of his incarceration in the Tallahassee Federal Correctional Institute, where he was serving out a one-year sentence for contempt of court, arising out of his activities in connection with the desegregation disorders at Clinton, Tenn., in 1956. Though he was to be released on August 9, 1958, Federal authorities quietly transferred him to Atlanta Penitentiary, where he was released on August 1. This move successfully defeated plans for a "welcome out" demonstration by Kasperites. He still preached a rabid racism, but Kasper's personal appearances seemed to have lost their old effectiveness. On September 2, 1958, he addressed meetings at Charlotte, Monroe, and Greensboro, N. C. He was severely heckled in Charlotte, his speech was drowned out by power saws in Monroe, and in Greensboro, his attacks on evangelist Billy Graham as "a tool of New York Communist Jews" caused most of an audience of 150 to leave. A meeting at Chattanooga, Tenn., on October 28, 1958, produced a small attendance and none of the public clamor he desired.

Kasper was convicted on November 8, 1958, of inciting to riot in connection with the disorders at Nashville, Tenn., during the school-desegregation crisis in September 1957. Sentenced to a six-month workhouse term and fined \$500, he posted a cash bond to remain at large pending appeal. During the trial, the district attorney had described the New Jersey-born and New York-raised Kasper as a budding "Hitler . . . who came here to feather his own nest." Admiral Crommelin, called as a character witness for Kasper, sat at the defendant's side during the trial and called him "an intellectual Robin Hood."

Other Persons and Groups

Joseph P. Kamp, through his Constitutional Educational League, continued a highly active pamphleteering enterprise aimed at the South. Two of his

pamphlets were consolidated into one, with the title of *The Lowdown on Little Rock and the Plot to Sovietize the South*. His literature was widely purchased and used in ultra-conservative and segregationist circles. In September 1958 Kamp literature was revealed to have been intruded into California's gubernatorial campaign, with a wide distribution of his anti-labor pamphlet, *Meet the Man Who Plans to Rule America*. The national chairmen of both major parties, as well as the candidates themselves, publicly rejected Kamp and his literature.

Merwin K. Hart, who since the 1930's had dominated the ultra-conservative National Economic Council, displayed his inveterate bias in many issues of his semi-monthly *Economic Council Letter*. Its issue of March 15, 1958, bore the heading "The Jews In Our Midst," and contained a variety of canards, including the allegation that "left-wing Jews, working in close conjunction with communists, are largely responsible for the so-called integration decision of the Supreme Court of May 17, 1954." The issue was reprinted as the lead article of the April 15, 1958, issue of Conde McGinley's *Common Sense*. In August Hart teamed up with Edward A. Rumely, head of the Committee for Constitutional Government, in a rare fund-raising collaboration to further a Platform for Patriotic Americans. The Platform, though not anti-Semitic, included among its approximately 100 endorsers the name of Lt. Gen. Pedro A. del Valle (USMC, ret.).

Defenders of the American Constitution, an ultra-conservative, anti-UN group in Washington, D. C., headed by General del Valle, appeared to worsen in its propaganda tone during the period under review. The September 1958 issue of its publication *Task Force*, stressed "international banker" and "Synagogue of Satan" themes and recommended or quoted the works of anti-Semites.

Comings and Goings

The excommunicated priest Leonard J. Feeney, whose bigoted meetings on Boston Common had plagued that city for eight years, retired from the scene of his weekly rabble-rousing attacks in February 1958, taking his 60 "disciples" with him to Still River, near Ayer, Mass. His monthly hate sheet, *The Point*, continued to be published from the new location.

Robert H. Williams (Santa Ana, Calif.) wound up his newsletter, *Williams Intelligence Summary*, with its March 1958 issue. He urged his readers to "keep fighting" and promised to return "in some way which may seem most likely to be effective."

John W. Hamilton, guiding spirit of the racist National Citizens Protective Association (St. Louis, Mo.), and one-time editor of *The White Sentinel*, was acquitted on May 27, 1958, of a morals charge involving a 15-year-old boy, after a retrial. A conviction after his first trial had been reversed on appeal. After his acquittal Hamilton resumed activity.

Ezra Pound, the anti-Semitic poet and mentor of rabble rouser John Kasper, was released for compassionate reasons from St. Elizabeth's Hospital in April 1958. Soon after he left for Italy, from where he had made anti-American broadcasts during World War II. Some of the most eminent men of letters in America, who did not sympathize with his political and racist views, had

argued that the United States would be showing greatness and generosity in releasing an old man, who despite his bigotry had greatly contributed to English literature. To clear the way for his discharge an indictment for treason against him had been dismissed. In a press interview in Naples on July 9, Pound told reporters that "all America is an insane asylum."

Pro-Arab Propaganda

Direct Arab propaganda largely confined itself to exploitation of the miseries of the Arab refugees and insinuations of "dual loyalty" against American Jews. American hatemongers lumped "Jews, Zionists, and Communists" as the cause of Middle East crises both current and past, ignoring the flirtations with Moscow of Nasser and other Arab leaders.

Particularly active in circulating Arab propaganda publications besides his own vitriolically pro-Arab *National Renaissance Bulletin* was James A. Madole, leader of the neo-Nazi group in the Yorkville section of New York City.

The Anti-Semitic Press

The combined circulation of the anti-Semitic press apparently rose somewhat, with Conde McGinley, Frank L. Britton, and Gerald L. K. Smith leading in quantity, areas of the country reached, and variety of methods of distribution. The November 1, 1957, issue of *Common Sense* listed John G. Crommelin, Montgomery, Ala., as a stockholder of the publisher, the Christian Educational Association.

Lyril Van Hyning and Elizabeth Dilling, both of Chicago, appeared to step up their activities, especially the former. *The Virginian*, published and edited by Lacey Jeffreys and William Stephenson, respectively, at Newport News, Va., combined religious bigotry with ultra-conservatism and high-flown dissertations on "race." Another Southern anti-Semitic publication was *The Georgia Tribune*, put out at Columbus, Ga., by Klan-supporter "Parson Jack" Johnston.

Among the anti-Semitic publications attacking FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover's book *Masters of Deceit* (New York, 1958) for praising major Jewish organizations for their fight against Communism were *Common Sense*, *National Renaissance Bulletin*, and *The Revere*.

New York industrialist Russell Maguire's *American Mercury* continued its decline in tone. Its July 1958 issue, for example, contained the following:

If bombs are dropped on the U. S., over 90 per cent of our casualties will be from broken glass and splinters. Disregarding these facts all new buildings (except synagogues) continue to be built with enormous quantities of glass.

Included in the same issue were "fillers" about "international bankers" and quotations from the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin and Lawrence Dennis.