

EAGLES, CONDORS AND SWASTIKAS

A paper presented to the Round Table of Eugene

13 April 1976

by

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The Communists, the Bolsheviks, the Anarchists, the Chicago 7, the Yippies, the Symbionese Army, the Patty Hearsts and other leftists groups or individuals have been extremely well-publicized in our country. We have been made aware of the disruptions of our lives which they have brought about and of their implied dangers. But what about their opposites--the extremists on the right?

There is an organization in Eugene that openly espouses the philosophy of Adolf Hitler— there is a member of the American Nazi Party on the San Francisco Police Force— a member of the American Nazi Party, is a candidate for mayor of Milwaukie, Wisconsin, and recently received approximately 5000 votes. Justice Hugo Black, a former member of the United States Supreme Court, was, at one time, a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

Simon Wiesenthal, the man most responsible for bringing Eichmann to trial in Israel, was quoted in an Associated Press story which appeared in the *Register-Guard* on April 3, 1976, as saying that tons of anti-semitic propaganda materials are being shipped by pro-Nazi and rightist groups in America for distribution in Europe, South America, Australia and South Africa. He stated that the brochures, published in eight languages, are being sent by the American Nazi Party of Arlington, Virginia and Lincoln, Nebraska, and the World Union of National Socialists of Mt. Vernon, New York, to likeminded groups overseas. There is further evidence that an organization called ODESSA was instrumental in providing not only a means of escape for Nazi war criminals to other lands but also for the shipping of great quantities of gold, art treasures, records of all kinds and other valuable materials to Spain, Switzerland and

South America where pro-Nazi groups now speak of the establishment of a Fourth Reich.

In the Spring of 1975 a news story in our local newspaper told of a successful suit brought by a young female employee and member of the San Francisco Police Department against that department. She had been discharged because she had freely and openly declared that she was, indeed, an active member of the American Nazi Party. Her suit was filed to enable her to maintain her position on the force and to establish the fact that neither her off-duty political nor her recreational activities impaired her efficiency therein. My first reaction upon reading this account was that surely there was a conflict of interest here; secondly, that any organization that had the word "Nazi" in it was evil; thirdly, why would the Headquarters of the San Francisco Police Department put up with that kind of an individual in its midst; and finally, what protection, if any, do we have against the activities of groups of this kind?

I suppose that I am an average American, and as such, I have been made aware, through the media, of the real, probable or fancied existence of dangerous, radical and disruptive organizations which seek to establish themselves as a political force in our country and to bring about the downfall of our democratic form of government. These organizations to which I allude, have been, by and large, the extremists on our Left: the Reds, the Radicals, the Communists, the Anarchists, et cetera. In any range of activity there is a mid-point between an extreme to the left and one to the right. The measure of the range is determined by the different interpretations placed upon it by the members of an organization, if they are permitted to do so by their leaders. Therefore, we can conclude that if there is an extreme Leftist cult in our society, then there is probably a corresponding extreme Rightist cult as well. And so there is.

In identifying some of our right wing organizations let me say that I found it extremely interesting that it seemed to matter very little what name appeared on individual mastheads because their philosophies, their beliefs and their appeals to their members were almost identical. In short, they are the super-patriots; they wish to protect our country from its enemies both alien and from within its borders; they wish to preserve the American way of life; they wish to maintain the supremacy and purity

of the white race; and they wish to do this under the divine guidance of God. They are, as a rule, anti-black; anti-Jewish, anti-minority of any kind, anti-Catholic, anti-"Big Business" and, although they probably wouldn't admit it, anti-change of almost any kind.

Of course, to many this spells W-A-S-P and those of us who are white, Anglo-Saxon and Protestants must pause and reflect a bit lest we get swept along on a wave of optimistic enthusiasm and say, "What's wrong with being white, Anglo-Saxon and Protestant?" The answer is that there is nothing wrong with it as long as it isn't used to gain an advantage over those who are not W-A-S-P-S!

The right-wing extremist is a sincere, dedicated, dogmatic, enthusiastic, honest-in-his-beliefs, religious individual who is absolutely certain that the welfare or the future of his country rests on his shoulders. He accepts the rules of the organization, the leadership of its officers and the discipline that is necessary to make it function. His organization may be semi-military in nature, accompanied by banners, flags, uniforms, titles, salutes and drills. Possession of weapons is implied if not an actuality. Members are ready to rally to the defense of America when the revolution comes. Their sincerity, bordering on fanaticism, is in some cases, terrifying, to say the least. Probably the man most attracted to membership in an extremist right-wing group at this moment is the hard-working, blue-collar guy who is proud of his ability to work and who can't get a job until, by government regulation, the quotas on minority hiring are first met. Acceptance of unwanted welfare as a substitute for work and frustration at not being able to get a job may trigger a violent reaction to a social situation on the part of a usually steady, hard-working, patriotic member of the American working class.

In thinking about a background for our present-day organizations the term "Vigilantes" came to mind. Of course, this immediately brought up memories of the California gold fields and the lawlessness and disorder that characterized the old gold towns as chronicled in the stories of Bret Harte and Mark Twain and in numerous other accounts. The name given to Vigilantes means self-appointed law enforcement groups which appeared from time to time on the American frontier and occasionally in older communities where established authorities seemed unable to cope with lawlessness and disorder.

Vigilantism occurred on the Western frontier, but since formal municipal government was non-existent, the term "popular tribunals" is probably a more accurate description or definition. When outlawry reached a critical high and caused peaceful citizens to become agitated enough to take action, they organized into democratic courts, appointed judges and juries, and dealt summarily with offenders. A town bearing the name of Dry Diggings, California, was re-named Hangtown as a result of one of these episodes.

Democratic legal procedure in gold rush towns was in most cases orderly and reasonably just; only occasionally did it degenerate into lynch law and mob rule. Two of the most famous episodes of vigilante activity occurred in San Francisco. The first, in 1851, resulted from the inability of the new city administration to cope with gangs of outlaws, who were known as "Hounds" or "Regulators", and who preyed chiefly on minority groups. They were also suspected of complicity in the great fires that repeatedly destroyed portions of the city. Under the leadership of Sam Brennan, a group of vigilantes seized and executed a notorious criminal, John Jenkins, then sentenced various other culprits to death, deportation, whipping or legal trial. Five years later, in 1856, a newspaper editor, James King, was slain by a James P. Casey, a county supervisor. This event was deemed to be serious enough to warrant the reorganization of the Vigilantes, who promptly seized Casey and a criminal named Charles Cora, tried them and executed them. Under the leadership of a William T. Coleman, the Vigilantes barricaded the streets in an area known as "Fort Gunnybags" and worked their way through a long list of undesirable characters. Finally, having exhausted the list of undesirables, the committee formally disbanded.

Another interesting episode of vigilante effectiveness occurred in a frontier mining area in Montana in 1864. An opportunist named Henry Plummer, who was a crook with great imagination, managed to get himself elected sheriff of the Bannack and Virginia City areas. Because of his official position, news of impending gold shipments was easy to obtain. He organized a gang of 100 desperadoes who specialized in stage coach robberies. A vigilante group was finally organized and successfully hunted down the gang. Sheriff Plummer was subsequently executed.

The city of New Orleans, while not exactly a frontier town in the sense of the San Francisco and Montana situations, did experience two major incidents of a similar nature when self-appointed agencies attempted to cope with current problems. In 1858, when municipal politics seemed hopelessly entangled among several political groups and election procedures were suspect, a vigilance committee was organized. It barricaded streets in the French Quarter and tried to conduct an honest election. City officials vacillated and finally the vigilantes disbanded when a change in municipal administration occurred. Then, a few years later, in 1890, the Mafia, a secret society composed largely of Sicilian immigrants, engaged in extortion, racketeering and murder. This group over-extended its activities, however, by assassinating one David Hennessy, who, in addition to his other activities, was the chief of police of New Orleans. During the ensuing trial, there seemed to be overwhelming evidence of the guilt of the parties apprehended for the crime. However, the suspects were acquitted, whereupon indignant citizens held a mass meeting, seized the jail and shot down those whose complicity in the crime seemed clear, thus largely destroying the Mafia's influence.

Although vigilantism was often justified by circumstances and was in many cases carried out by citizens who were moderate and orderly in their application of force, it carried with it many dangers, the chief of which was, as mentioned before, that it sometimes degenerated into mob rule. This is well illustrated by a grave marker in the Boot Hill Cemetery of Tombstone, Arizona, which bears the epitaph "Lynched by Mistake."

"Circumstances which justify the action taken" is an obvious and elastic catch-all term that has certain built-in dangers as well. It is an overworked phrase that keeps cropping up consistently in the history of organizations of this nature. This particular term was leaned on rather heavily all during the organization and tenure of another self-appointed organization which played--and is still playing--a most unsavory role in the history of the United States. This group was founded in Pulaski, Tennessee, some 80 miles south of Nashville, on Dec. 24, 1865, and it is known as the Ku Klux Klan. The Klan was rather innocent at first; it was organized as a social club by six young men who were faced with a vacation period with time on their hands.

Their pranks consisted of donning robes and masks and riding through the countryside anonymously and mysteriously at night, scaring the wits out of the country folk, mostly negroes. Riding up to a black's cabin at midnight they would rouse the family and, as the head of the family extended his hand at a command to shake hands with the ghost of a Confederate soldier, he would be left with a fabricated arm hanging in his grasp or find himself clutching the foot of a turkey. In the dark this could be quite a shock and a bit nerve-wracking.

The organization soon discovered that it had hit upon a very effective, coercive means of intimidation which was used as a means of keeping the blacks away from the polls. Two years after its birth, the Klan went national in a convention organized for that purpose in Nashville, Tennessee and granted franchises and authorizations for additional conclaves to be organized in other, predominantly Southern towns. It became the "Invisible Empire" and stressed the utmost secrecy in its organization. "No one knew nuthin' about nobody."

The character of the organization began to change, also. In the Reconstruction days in the post-Civil war era, the Klan became a powerful, illegal force to terrorize and subdue not only the blacks but also those whites who were foolish enough to raise an objecting voice about the illicit activities of the Klan. In its charter it was stated that the purpose of the organization was to "protect the weak and the innocent; give relief to the injured and oppressed, and aid in the succoring of the unfortunate." Admirable purposes on the surface but sinister instead when subject to definition by the Klan.

Men joined the Klan, and defended its practices, out of deep personal convictions. They embraced the programs of hatred outlined for them by their leaders as a means of saving their country and preserving the American way of life. "The American way of life", of course, as they defined it. Not to act could readily seem like cowardice or even like treason to the nation's highest ideals. Targets of the Klan have included, first of all, denial of civil rights for negroes followed by attacks against Catholics, Jews, Mormons, aliens, Republicans and any minority group or organization which suggested a threat to the status quo.

During the Reconstruction period many supporters of the Klan deplored the violence it engendered but condoned it as a necessary evil to produce the desirable end

of keeping the blacks out of public life and on the social and economic level where "they belonged."

Unfortunately, when the Klan's activities broadened to embrace the WASP principle, this explaining, or condoning, continued--even though a new, bitter and terrible "hate" program began to develop as the rule rather than the exception as a description of its activities. Anonymous letters, mysterious initials and signs appearing on buildings belonging to a new victim, burning crosses on one's lawn, killing of one's livestock, the "silent treatment" invoked against members of a marked family, branding and torture, flogging and finally lynching spread its terror throughout the South and in many other areas throughout the United States•

The Klan also became a powerful political group. Candidates they wished to defeat were greatly discouraged and harassed. Their constituents were also hounded and coerced into dropping their support of anti-Klan candidates. Governors or candidates for governor of individual states who came out openly against the Klan were defeated in their campaigns for office. One of these was Ben Olcott of Oregon who came out strongly in his anti-Klan statements in running for governor in 1922 and was subsequently defeated. There seems to be enough evidence to point to Klan participation as the turning point in his campaign. Also, in Oregon, the Klan was responsible for the passage of the School Law which required all citizens to send their children to public schools. Aimed at parochial schools, it also, of course, affected private schools and on June 1, 1925, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled it was unconstitutional.

William Allen White, editor of the Emporia Kansas, *Gazette*, ran unsuccessfully for governor of Kansas in the 1920s, not because he wanted to be governor, as much as he wanted to be heard in his campaign against the Klan. His weapon was ridicule and his editorials were masterpieces of prose that made the Klan a laughingstock among many Kansans and others who had access to the *Gazette*. He was not altogether successful in killing the Klan, but he did damage it almost beyond repair--his exposé of the ridiculous titles, terms and rituals has had a continuing effect even to this day.

The first real jolt, however, that the Klan suffered was caused by the personal immorality and criminal action by its top leaders. Embezzlement of Klan funds and some unsavory incidents involving other men's wives and top Klan leaders were widely

publicized in the early 30's. This caused a great deal of disenchantment in the ranks, and membership declined drastically.

Interest revived and membership noted some gains, however, when the Klan joined forces in a sharing of mutual goals and interests with the German-American Bund in 1940. However, this was a union of short duration because the Bund was suffering from internal distress about that time and could lend no real strength or leadership to other groups. Also, because it believed in coercion by violence, the Attorney General of the United States had placed the Klan on the list of subversive organizations. With the advent of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, the Klan was sidetracked until it was officially dissolved in April, 1944, when it became the target of a Federal suit to claim a \$600,000 tax bill brought against it by the government.

The Klan then went underground but surfaced again in the 50s--finding a made-to-order situation in the civil rights upheavals of that era and continuing to this day. I am sure you have noticed the story which appeared in the news media recently of the arrest and impending prosecution of three Klan members who were the active participants in an alleged Klan-inspired murder of a black in 1957.

At the time of the Republican National Convention in 1964, Mark Hatfield, then governor of Oregon, made the statement that "bigots in this nation who advocate hate must be overcome," and he mentioned as examples the Klan, the John Birch Society, the Communist Party and others. This, however, brought forth a party reply to the effect that "extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice; moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue." These statements caused a great flap at that time and the Democrats countered by condemning extremism, both Right and Left.

While the Klan seems to be subdued at the moment, it might well be pointed out, however, that at its peak in 1924 it listed some five million Americans, dedicated to its principles, on its membership rolls. Further, one author leaves us with this admonition, "A sober review of American history yields the unwelcome conclusion that the Klan spirit is a constant in our national behavior. At times it is quiescent, but it is not dead, only smoldering between eruptions."

The violence and extreme, deep-seated hatred exhibited in the actions by the Klan to maintain the American way of life, white supremacy and minority subjugation is a sad

and unwholesome chapter in our history. Oregon and the Pacific Northwest had its masked groups functioning outside the law, also. A case in point is described in an historical account appearing in the *Morning Oregonian* dated Feb. 7, 1959, which details harassment and violence by masked mobs against Chinese woodcutters and other Chinese laborers in Seattle and Tacoma, Washington, and in the Mt. Tabor and Albina districts in Portland, in the spring of 1886. Persecution of the Chinese resulted in martial law, and troops were called out from Vancouver Barracks. Apparently no one was killed but bones were broken and blood was spilled as well as Chinese homes burned to the ground.

Because the next organizations which will be examined and which directly affect the Northwest and Pacific Coast area are the illegitimate offspring of Hitlerism and openly admit that they believe in its principles, it might be well to re-examine the success of Hitler's rise to power.

Post-World War I Germany was a devastated shambles of a once-proud nation. The loss of the war and its dream of conquest, the loss of its youth in the war, the loss of its manufacturing market, the inability of the Weimar Republic (an experiment in democracy) to bring order out of chaos, the economic rock-bottom which it had hit, famine, depression and the complete hopelessness of its situation presented a most dismal picture. Upon this scene with bombast, propaganda, the "Big Lie" technique and with conviction, endless and untiring enthusiasm and drive came the new leader. Hitler told the people what they wanted to hear: that the Germans were the real "chosen people", that the Aryan race was the logical, the rightful and indeed, the only really qualified people to be the world leaders; that the Jew was the reason for the loss of the war and for their present condition and that the Russian Communists were about to take over their homeland. As a drowning man will grasp at a straw, the German people embraced the Hitler dream. After all, almost anything was better than the condition they were in at that time and consequently their self-assurance and belief in themselves were re-established.

Without going into the procedures used by Adolf Hitler let the record show that in a few short years the German state was once again a power in Europe; that its people, for the most part, were well-fed, well-clothed and were gainfully employed; that its cities

were rebuilt, clean and industriously active; and that, in the background, was an ever-increasing army, navy, air force and a plan for world conquest. While his plan for conquest failed, two examples of the place that Hitler still holds in Germany, as late as the summer of 1975, were the number of films on the life of Hitler which were being shown, not unsympathetically, in Germany, and a survey of young college-age Germans who indicated that they felt Hitler was a great man but that he was a victim of poor advice and that the methods used to accomplish his purposes were wrong.

His personal magnetism and the power he held over people is further illustrated in a book written by Albert Speer, the Nazi architect and author, and which was published recently. In a review of "*Spandau: The Secret Diaries*" in *Time Magazine* dated February 23, 1976, Speer is quoted as saying that Hitler "had the ignorance, the curiosity, the enthusiasm and the temerity of the born dilettante; and along with that, inspiration, imagination and lack of bias. Isn't it understandable that even now the image of the enthusiastic Hitler comes to mind?" This review was prefaced by a quote from Anatole France to the effect that "All the good writers of confessions, from Augustine onwards, are still a little in love with their sins."

With the rise of Hitler some 150 organizations sprang into being in the United States which were patterned after Nazism or embraced the ideas of Hitler. According to the Dies Committee (refers to the House Committee on Un-American Activities), approximately 75 per cent of these were devoted to the individual gain of its organizer and had virtually no membership. They sputtered and died out rather rapidly.

One organization which survived for some time and gained a great deal of notoriety was William Dudley Pelley's "Silver Shirts." Mr. Pelley launched his group on January 31, 1933, and readily admitted that he had the qualifications to become the American Hitler. His antecedents are somewhat cloudy but he did work for a time on various small-town newspapers and claimed to have written a number of novels. In an autobiographical sketch he modestly admitted that, as a writer, he had mastered his craft and that "there were four different text books on the American short story containing specimens of my work acclaimed as examples of dramatic construction so perfect that college students must analyze them as part of their courses in English."

After a brief try at screen writing in Hollywood (unsuccessful) he surfaced in New York City and found a new opportunity in spiritualism. He became the shepherd of a flock which gave him enough money to go to Asheville, North Carolina, where, in 1931, he founded the Galahad Press, devoted mostly to writings on metaphysical or psychical subjects. According to the Dies Committee, about nine out of 10 of his followers were women who gave him money and from whom he freely borrowed additional sums. Later, when he organized the Silver Shirts his writings changed to violent, vitriolic and scurrilous attacks on the Jews. In March, 1934, the Silver Shirts were incorporated but so organized that no member had a right to vote and powers of a self-perpetuating dictator were vested in Pelley. His Galahad Press went bankrupt because he had drained and otherwise embezzled all of its capital and converted it to his own use or transferred it to dummy corporations which he controlled. This set the stage for his practice of incorporating new publishing companies to maintain a steady output of hate literature. At one time he was the president or sole director of nine different publishing companies, only one of which maintained a bank account. It was stated by the Dies Committee that "funds collected by Mr. Pelley were disposed of by means so devious as to defy accounting."

In 1936 he organized the Christian Party which was designed to function in the political arena as an anti-Jewish machine. He was his party's candidate for president of the United States but the votes he received were so few and so scattered that most compilers of election returns took no notice of it. He was eventually arrested, charged with criminal sedition and on August 23, 1942, sentenced to a term of 15 years in a federal penitentiary. While it was impossible to trace membership rolls it is noted that at one time active chapters of the Silver Shirts were maintained in 22 states. A prolific writer, Pelley flooded the country, with particular emphasis on the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast states, with his tracts.

As noted by the Dies Committee "Evidence shows that virtually all organizations of this type make use of racial and religious hatred to enlist members and to secure financial support." And because there was such a torrent of publications, all in the same vein, that spewed forth from his presses, it continues to feed the flames of bigotry, even as *Mein Kampf* and Klan literature continue to be read.

However, the group which provided, I think, unwittingly, the foundation for the Nazi movement in the United States was the Germans who had emigrated to the United States from 1919 to 1932, some 430,000 of them. There had been German newspapers, clubs, churches and the language for years in the United States even as the Norwegians, the Italians, the Finns, the Greeks and other ethnic groups maintained their old world ties. With the advent of World War I, however, it was unpatriotic to be anything but American. No connection of any kind with one's German heritage was acceptable in a community.

With the appearance of Hitler on the world scene, however, the German-American Bund came into existence. Its purpose was to unify the German-Americans into one party. Fritz Kuhn became the American Fuhrer in 1939. He adopted the Nazi insignia and imitated Hitler's policies in many ways; he had the Youth Camps, the strong-arm groups, weapons, salutes, anti-Jewish campaigns and all the assorted arrogance and hatred inspired by Nazi propagandists.

While the German-American Bund at its maximum strength numbered some 25,000 members it was, in fact, a small proportion of the emigrants who came to America after World War I. The hyphenated American citizen, as a rule, refused to be recognized as a German living in America and preferred the designation of an American of German ancestry. The attempts of Germany to maintain "Deutschstüm" or German "oneness" did not progress as well as was expected. Although Hitler and the Nazi party accepted monetary contributions and pledges of kinship from the American party, it was, much of the time, a source of embarrassment to the Nazis. At one time the German ambassador was quoted as saying "We consider Kuhn's group to be a small and ridiculous party."

Kuhn traveled to Berlin in 1936 at the time of the Olympic Games. A picture of him being received by Hitler, which was widely circulated later in the United States, had about the same effect on the American public as Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh's acceptance of a medal from Germany for his contribution to aviation at about the same time. It was extremely negative, to say the least. Kuhn and his party were looked upon as a potential "Trojan Horse" and his stock was at the threshold of its decline.

To bolster his party and provide for an expected increase in membership and funds, Kuhn arranged a giant "Pro-American" rally to be held at Madison Square Garden on February 20, 1939. It was particularly well-covered by Life Magazine and all the news media. It was a show of strength that did the party more harm than good, however, when some 3000 uniformed members marched in to occupy the swastika-adorned platform. Other members stationed themselves at strategic locations throughout the hall where they could observe the 22,000 people who were present. In his speech Kuhn compared Hitler to George Washington and called for an anti-Jewish, united Fascist front. There was quite an adverse reaction to this demonstration although, apart from a few fistfights outside the Garden, the police kept things under control. Later both Governor Thomas Dewey and Mayor LaGuardia were widely quoted and their anti-Hitler remarks further jeopardized Kuhn's standing as a serious leader of a strong party.

Further adverse reaction contributed to its decline, particularly upon the advent of the Kristallnacht— the reign of anti-Jewish terror which swept Germany after a Nazi official in Paris was assassinated by an individual of Jewish descent. The Bund reached its nadir on Dec. 7, 1941. Kuhn and others of his group were found guilty of misusing their citizenship and were deported in 1945 to Germany.

The hate program continued, however, for the failure of the Bund was not considered a German failure but rather as one more victory for international Jewry. The failure of Nazi propagandists to recognize the diversity of the American population as one of its strengths rather than a weakness was the major reason for the failure of the German-American Bund to become a real threat to our country. Its potential was there, however, and many people still consider that it was a "near thing."

Incidentally, in a recent documentary by CBS News on the Great Depression of the 1930s, it was mentioned that the need for an American dictator was widely expressed at that time because the public was frustrated by Hoover's failure to provide some sort of sustained relief for poverty and they were impressed by what Mussolini had accomplished in bringing Italy out of the depths of economic paralysis. This is precisely what Britain is facing at this time.

Following World War II, and after a few false starts, a new American Nazi Party came into existence headed by an individual who, in my opinion, was the champion of champions, the unqualified superior hate-peddler of recent years, George Lincoln Rockwell. This master of the invective founded his version of the American Nazi Party in the 1950s and published a book called "White Power." The book has a white cover with a red and black swastika in the center. On its fly-leaf appears the following: "To all white men of courage, who from the beginning created western Civilization, and, in the present, sustain and, in the future, fulfill human destiny this book is dedicated."

Rockwell was violently, but never incoherently, fanatic on his stand for white supremacy. He was completely opposed to the blacks, the Jews, the Communists, and other minority groups. Completely devoid of tact or diplomacy, he blatantly advertised for members who were not "dabblers but dedicated, fanatical fighters who will stick through hell itself." He cited *Mein Kampf* as a clear blue-print for saving the world. He described it as "a doctrine of scientific, radical idealism."

While Hitler promoted his ideas in an atmosphere of pseudo-scientific claims, lectures and debates, Rockwell put his fight squarely in the gutter. His very style of poisonous vituperation would serve to repel more than to attract believers in his cause. His adjectives of the coarsest nature served to conjure up the most repulsive thoughts based on the lowest forms of human emotion. As a disciple of the Nazi ideals he took us farther down the bumpy road of racial and political bigotry by such statements as these: "America must be all-white; blacks must be deported,"

"The great Joe McCarthy was a true patriot, hero and martyr,"

"The color of your skin is your uniform in this ultimate battle for survival of the West,"

And the following, which I doubt is welcome in the camp of the candidate mentioned:

"George Wallace is the best racial symbol of our white family who has been allowed by the Jews (through compromise) to rise as a national and somewhat respectable figure."

George Lincoln Rockwell listed as the planks in his platform as an advocate of the White Revolution the following which he designated as the "Laws of the Tribe":

1. The Law of Biological Integrity (Nationalism).
2. The Law of Territory (Private Property).
3. The Law of Leadership (by the Best).

4. The Law of Status (the natural place of every individual in a group).

5. Motherhood for females."

He maintained that this program was entirely logical and possible. He held Hitler up as "one who has shown us how to achieve a revolution with a minimum of bloodshed."

He further claimed that the American Nazi Party was a member of the World Union of National Socialists of which he was the head. Further, he stated that there were 36 other units organized in countries throughout the world. This statement is further documented by a story which appeared in *The Oregonian* dated April 3, 1976 quoting Simon Wiesenthal. If this is true, it does indeed give one cause for concern.

Mr. Rockwell was himself a victim of the procedure he openly advocated. He was assassinated in 1968 by one John Patsalos, who was paroled from a Richmond, Virginia, prison August 23, 1975. In his book Rockwell also listed as one of the American Nazi Party's publications the *National Socialist World*, "A publication directed toward the college level and growing at a fantastic pace, the editor of which is a former professor at the University of Oregon." This statement was checked at the University of Oregon Library where, on the opening pages of Volume I of the *National Socialist World*, there appeared an announcement by Rockwell of the appointment of Dr. William L. Pierce as editor. He further stated that Dr. Pierce had been a staff member at Oregon State University for three years. In a check of a further reference book it did indeed show that William L. Pierce had received his PhD degree at the University of Colorado and had spent three years as a physicist at Oregon State University prior to becoming a research physicist at the Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Division of the United Aircraft Corporation in 1965.

The last pro-Nazi organization to be mentioned is one that has had its organization in the Northwest and which was the subject of a rather detailed, by-lined story in the Eugene Register-Guard on Sunday, February 22, 1976. This story about the Posse Comitatus was written by Doug Bates of the *Register-Guard* staff. This group was organized by Mike Beach, a 72-year-old retired Portland business man. The local Lane County chairman is Dean Kennedy, a 36-year-old ex-teacher who operates a coin and stamp shop just off Willamette Street on West 10th Avenue. He has a bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Oregon and was admitted to the graduate

school at the University of Washington to work toward a doctoral degree. He dropped out of this program, however, to teach in a private school.

The local Chapter was chartered on Nov. 2, 1973, with eight original members. Mr. Bates, who was permitted to attend a recent meeting, counted 20 men present at that time. Their claim, however, is that they have some 400,000 members in 48 states-- Maine and Hawaii excluded. Again, this group champions white supremacy. It is composed of anti-Jewish, super-patriotic admirers of Hitler who believe that there is an international banking conspiracy that is destroying America. They consider themselves the self-appointed watchdogs over local, state and federal governmental action and are ready to step in with force to defend their country. They are extremely militant, are prepared to die for their country and their leader assures everyone who listens that there will be bloodshed.

Their target, other than the FBI, the IRS and other governmental agencies, appears to be a vague group called the Illuminati, which, they claim, is a banking cabal which flourishes over the entire world. A cursory bit of research revealed that the term Illuminati stemmed from the term "Alumbrado", meaning the Enlightened, a Spanish designation used by a religious group in the 15th century. The term was used in its own language in Italy, France, Germany and Russia as various religious groups adopted it as their name as they lived, died out and came to life again. No connection was shown to indicate that it was one large network—which may or may not be correct. Such terms as "Rosecrucian" and "free-mason" were a part of the titles in these various religious organizations.

The term "posse comitatus" does, however, refer to a legally appointed group which may be called upon by a law-enforcement agency in time of emergency to assist in whatever legal action may be necessary. The present self-styled "Posse Comitatus" has not been legally appointed and, according to the Lane County Sheriff, will probably never be called upon. But they do exist, they are flesh and blood members and they do expect some sort of conflict and they are preparing to meet it with force.

Having examined a few of the right-wing extremist groups, the obvious question seems to be "Are the extremists, be they left of right, all bad?" The position taken here

is that, in theory, they are not all bad but in practice they may be the very personification of evil and in some cases they certainly were and still are.

To promote a healthy society or organization there must be a diversity of opinions, ideas and philosophies tempered by reasonable exchange and communication. A government such as that of this country can adopt a middle-of-the-road or central position while acknowledging the existence of right and left positions on a question. The course of government may be likened to a pendulum in that, while it may in some action swing to the left, there is soon a counter-swing to the right. Extremists may bring in new ideas or concepts which may be adopted into or modified to bring about an improvement in the operation of an organization. This idea, so important to a democracy, is castigated in *Mein Kampf* by Hitler, who said every country needed one great leader to survive; further, that a great leader comes along once in a blue moon and, in reference to a parliamentary body charged with determining the course of a country, the chance that 500 leaders would arrive simultaneously was rather remote. Extremists, in moderation, do bring about changes and change is essential to progress. Change, however, must be made within the provisions of the existing legal framework or chaos results.

To protect our society from chaotic action of the extremists, reliance may be placed on two primary and essential elements of our democracy: education and freedom of speech. Ignorance and superstition go hand in hand in furthering the causes of racial and religious persecution. A well-educated and well-read constituency, having the power to make critical analyses of vital issues, may well prevent itself from accepting half-truths, fallacies and propaganda of a slanted nature. Likewise, freedom of speech is a necessity to establish a well-informed public. All news media, be it the local newspaper, radio, TV, magazines, books or hand-bills play an important and necessary part in presenting information.

As mentioned before, the editor of the *Emporia Gazette* was very effective in combatting the Klan. The news story in *The Oregonian* dated March 22, 1976 uses the same technique in reporting a recent Texas Klan meeting. Also, the story from the *Register-Guard* about the Posse Comitatus meeting in Pendleton recently, serves to keep the general public aware of the existence of organizations of this type. Truly,

knowledge is power and that may well be the most effective weapon to combat the extremists. The knowledge of the existence of these groups is essential and they must be exposed for what they are. In spite of the fact that Hitlerism has been exposed as one of the most horrible experiences to which the world has ever been subjected, time has begun to blur the rough edges of that picture and some people are beginning to glorify his accomplishments. This is illustrated in a column appearing in *The Oregonian* in January, 1976. If this is true, then it is scary indeed, for a militant group could well adopt the pageantry and costumes of the Nazis to promote a similar group in this country.

For many years novelists have used the theme of an ambitious, intelligent, anti-democratic group launching a campaign to take over the government of the United States. If this theme is so popular and intriguing then perhaps it can happen here. If it does, the chances are greater that the attempt will come from the extreme Right rather than from the extreme Left.

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