

ON THE RECORD

By DOROTHY THOMPSON

Rebellion in Connecticut

The dilemma of Southbury, Connecticut, raises a question which is tremendously important to the position of Democracy, here and everywhere else. It involves the whole issue of civil liberties, and the question of how Democracy in the modern world can defend itself.

Without revealing the purpose for which he wished it, Wolfgang Jung, of Stamford, Connecticut, purchased, some time ago, 178 acres of land in the village of Southbury. The German-American Bund, it now develops, was the real purchaser, and the purpose is to erect on this land a German-American Bund camp. I wish to be scrupulously correct, so I do not call this a "Nazi" camp. Nevertheless, the fact is that the present German government has publicly, through the Foreign Minister, and elsewhere, announced that it intends to retain the allegiance of German citizens everywhere in the world, and that it has the right to expect that all men and women of German blood, wherever they may live, and whatever their citizenship may be, will collaborate to further the interests of the German Reich.

These German camps fly the Swastika flag, train their adherents in the Nazi ideology, and announce that their objective is to fight the Jews and Communism.

Now, this little village of Southbury, inhabited, I have no doubt, by no communists at all, but by self-respecting, law-abiding American citizens, doesn't want this German-American Bund camouflaged Nazi camp in its midst. These camps attract over week-ends—it has been demonstrated, in Long Island and New Jersey—hundreds and perhaps thousands of trippers. From that point of view, such a camp can be an economic asset to any nearby community. Communities, by and large, have been anxious—to take a somewhat parallel example—to get CCC camps established nearby. They mean that local merchants have an extended market. But the village of Southbury is queasy about this particular outfit. It held a town meeting on November 23, and voted 122 to 41 to try to keep them out. But they cannot be kept out in any direct way. So the village is driven to passing a zoning law, which will prohibit any activity on the camp site, except private housing or farming, and therewith make the camp impossible.

Thus, the village of Southbury is forced to take a round-about way to prevent there being set up in its midst, a training school for agitators of an alien ideology, and actual representatives of a foreign power. For make no mistake about it: The Nazi theology is strictly authoritarian, and the Pope of this new religion lives in Berlin, and not in Washington.

And it isn't only the Nazis. There's another religion which is recruiting zealots in this county, and it has a Pope, too. His name is Stalin and his residence is Moscow, and he has no interest whatsoever in the peace and prosperity of the United States of America.

The German-American Bund, of course, flies the American flag alongside the Swastika, which stands for precisely everything that the Constitution of the United States abhors, and the Communist camps and Communist meetings, fly the Red Flag alongside these same stars and stripes, and also deplore every thing that America has ever stood for.

The Communist Party in the United States has not a vestige of democratic organization. The orders do not come from the workers who join it; the policy is not made in the United States; it is established by the party line, and that party line is laid down in Moscow. I once went to the trouble of mapping out in con-

(Continued on Page 12)