



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

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Klein, Ernest and Julius, 1933-1934.



CODE:

ABC FIFTH EDITION  
BENTLEY'S

ERNEST L. KLEIN

PUBLISHER

120 NORTH LA SALLE STREET

PHONE DEARBORN 3157

CHICAGO, ILL.

CABLE ADDRESS

"STAATSROLD" CHICAGO

November 16, 1933

REPRESENTING:

Philadelphia Tageblatt (German Daily)  
Philadelphia Gazette-Democrat  
(German Daily)  
Staats-Herold (Chicago, Illinois)  
Heimatbote (Chicago, Illinois)  
Chicago Herold (Chicago, Illinois)  
Winona-La Crosse Herold (Minnesota)  
Dakota Freie Presse (New Ulm, Minn.)  
Columbia (Catholic) (Wisconsin)  
Rundschau (Lutheran) (Wisconsin)  
Die Welt (Magazine) (National)  
Colorado Herold (Denver, Colorado)  
Das Wochenblatt (Austin, Texas)

NATIONAL WEEKLIES  
LARGEST GERMAN AMERICAN  
NEWSPAPER SYNDICATE IN U. S.

LINCOLN FREIE PRESSE  
AMERICA HEROLD

Guaranteed Circulation 230,000

Consolidation of the following

German papers:

Winona Adler, Winona, Minn.  
Pioneer, Fargo, N. Dak.  
Die Wacht, Rochester, Minn.  
Am Zumbro, Rochester, Minn.  
Volksblatt des Westens, Winona, Minn.  
Sonntags Winona, Winona, Minn.  
Landmann, Cochrane, Wis.  
Alberta Herold, Edmonton, Can.  
Volksbote, Marinette, Wis.  
German Press, Duluth, Minn.  
Zeitung, Fairmont, Minn.  
Anzeiger, Arcadia, Wis.  
Staatszeitung, Helena, Mont.  
Post, Mankato, Minn.  
Rundschau & Wecker, Portage, Wis.  
Volksfreund, La Crosse, Wis.  
Herold, Reedsburg, Wis.  
Der Herold, Eau Claire, Wis.  
Wochenblatt, Wausau, Wis.  
Pioneer, Wausau, Wis.  
Volksblatt, New Ulm, Minn.  
Der Herold, Elgin, Ill.  
Staats Wochenblatt, Springfield, Ill.  
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Nordstern, La Crosse, Wis.  
Volkspost, La Crosse, Wis.  
Abendstern, La Crosse, Wis.  
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Thalbote, Merrill, Wis.  
Der Seebote, Milwaukee, Wis.  
Sonntagsbote, Milwaukee, Wis.  
Wahrheit, Manitowoc, Wis.  
Post, Manitowoc, Wis.  
Lincoln Freie Presse, Lincoln, Neb.  
Milwaukee America, Milwaukee, Wis.  
Westlicher Herold, Winona, Minn.  
Kewanee Banner, Kewanee, Wis.  
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Press Ass'ns and Publishing  
Companies:

National Weeklies, Inc. (Winona, Minn.)  
German-American News & Publishing  
Association  
German-American Press Association

Rabbi Hillel Silver  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Upon the suggestion of Rabbi Gerson B. Levi of Chicago, I  
am writing you to acquaint you with the work of the  
"National Free Press".

The "National Free Press" is a publication which has been  
organized to conduct a campaign of enlightenment on  
Hitlerism and the Hitler activities in America and to parti-  
cularly reach the German-Americans.

The entire scenery of the "National Free Press" is German-  
American. The Editor is Dr. Erich Von Schroetter, formerly  
Professor at the Northwestern University. Reverend Hans  
Jacoby, Pastor of the St. Petri Church in Chicago and  
Reverend Karl M. Chworowsky, Pastor of the St. Peter's  
Evangelical Church, The College Church in Elmhurst, Illinois  
and many other prominent Germans (non-Jews) are either on  
the Advisory Board or the Editorial Committee and are ac-  
tively supporting the cause of the "National Free Press".

Men like James W. Gerard, former American Ambassador to  
Germany, Senator Robert F. Wagner, Senator Royal S. Copeland  
and many other national figures of our industry, finance and  
politics have promised to write articles for the "National  
Free Press" from time to time. Professors of universities  
and colleges, well known national figures have also assured  
us of their cooperation and their editorial contributions.

It is our aim to reach with the "National Free Press" the  
German-American families who are now being swamped with  
Hitler propaganda and Hitler press organs. We will try to  
enlighten them as to what a menace Hitlerism is and what it  
stands for.

The only effective way and means to fight Hitlerism in America  
is by having the German-Americans protest against their ac-  
tivities. This can only be accomplished by reaching the  
German-American. We have the means to do so, for I am the  
associated with the largest chain of German language newspapers  
and am in a position to secure lists of names of readers of  
German language newspapers, to whom we can sent the "National  
Free Press".

We must, of course, receive the silent financial support of  
the Jews. I cannot expect the Lutheran Ministers and other  
prominent German-Americans who lend their name to our cause  
to also help us financially.



November 16, 1933

Mr. Max Adler of Chicago, Mr. S. J. T. Straus and other prominent Jews have promised me their support. I hope they will be successful in getting us some help, for so far I have financed the publication of the "National Free Press" myself.

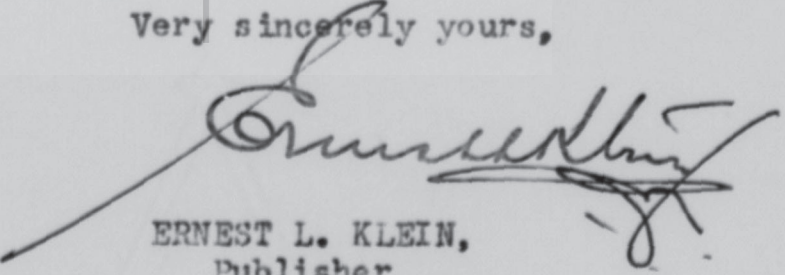
We have printed more than fifty thousand copies every week. They have been distributed through mail, carrier system, news stands and through German-American fraternal and social organizations. However, I cannot carry the burden myself, for I have practically reached the limit.

I am sending you under separate cover a number of copies of every edition of the "National Free Press". It will be appreciated by me if you would arrange for some financial as well as moral help among your friends in Cleveland.

You can, if you wish, communicate with Dr. Levi in Chicago or with Mr. Max Adler, and I am sure they will agree with me that the "National Free Press" is the most effective means to combat Hitlerism in America.

Trusting to have your cooperation and thanking you in advance for any assistance which you may be able to render, I am, with best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

  
ERNEST L. KLEIN,  
Publisher

ELK:DTW

165  
1933  
2098  
Account by  
in modern ways

The Undying Flame Above the  
The Wretched Hope  
a people that in Jerusalem keep  
a Hope that is.



# National Free Press

(Freie Presse)

PHONE: DEARBORN 3158  
118 NORTH LA SALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

November 28, 1933

Strictly Confidential

Rabbi Hillel Silver  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

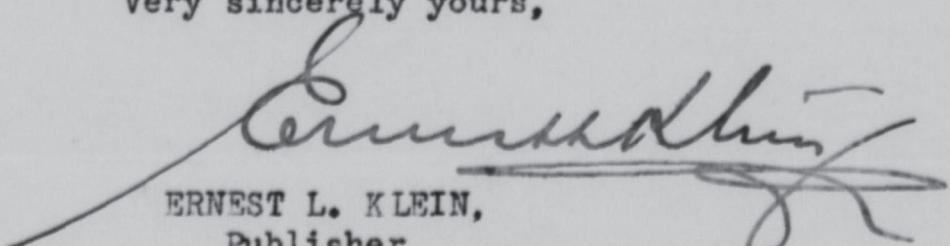
I am enclosing herein a copy of a letter which I addressed today to Dr. Gerson B. Levi, Rabbi of the Temple Isiah Israel.

I kindly request you to read my letter to Dr. Levi very carefully and give the contents of same thought, and if possible your earliest attention.

After assuming my duties with the government, I expect my brother, Julius Klein, to carry on my work from the background. Of course, the same staff of leadership, as Dr. Erich Von Schroetter, Editor, will be retained.

With best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

  
ERNEST L. KLEIN,  
Publisher

ELK:DTW  
Encl.



November 28, 1933

Dr. Gerson B. Levi  
919 Hyde Park Blvd.  
Chicago, Illinois

Strictly Confidential

My dear Dr. Levi:

It is for some time that I wanted to talk to you but somehow the pressure of business prevented me from making connections with you. I phoned you this morning at your home but could not reach you, so I finally decided to drop you a note as a forerunner to our meeting within the next day or so.

I don't believe that our good Jews realize the danger that Hitlerism is being spread affectively in America also. I hardly think that our good Jews have any idea about the Hitler activities in America. It is my opinion that the intelligent American Jew does not seem to be much disturbed about the Hitler propaganda in this country and pays little attention to it, for the general impression is that Hitlerism could not take root in America.

I have often experienced when talking to prominent American Jews that they say, "Oh, the Hitlerites wont get far in America. The American people could not be influenced by propaganda which is so alien to the principles of our constitution. There is no need to be alarmed; we are living in a free country." Little these people know what is actually going on.

The work I have started is not a one man's job. I have devoted months and months of my time and efforts to organize the publication of the "National Free Press". I have made an extensive investigation of the Hitler activities in America. My investigation prompted me to start the publication of the "National Free Press" for one purpose, to conduct a campaign of enlightenment and reach those German-American families who are now being swamped with Hitler propaganda

For many years I have been engaged in the German language newspaper business, in fact, I am now the Associate Publisher of the largest chain of German language newspapers in America. Therefore, I know the German field and am acquainted with what is needed to counteract the vicious Hitler propaganda.

German-American families throughout the country are receiving lots of Hitler propaganda, Hitler press organs delivered to their house free. Enormous amounts of money is being spent by the Hitler organizations to influence the American of German extraction and win him to the cause of Hitler. Only a strong national press organ like the "National Free Press" will be an effective means to counteract that propaganda. Therefore I believe it is of vital importance that the publication of the "National Free Press" be continued. You and your friends can help me accomplish this by immediate financial assistance.



The "National Free Press" is not an anti-German newspaper but a publication advocating German ideals as long as they do not conflict with our American principles. The "National Free Press" is fighting for many issues dear to the German people. For instance the Revision of the Treaty of Versailles etc.. Only by conducting a pro-German paper and fighting for German ideals can we be successful in trying to make the German people see our other aims, namely, opposition against Hitler and his regime.

Since the publication of the "National Free Press" we have received numerous letters from German Lutheran Ministers, Priests and prominent German-American leaders of the different German fraternal and social organizations from all parts of the country lauding us on our good work. In some of the letters I find that before reading the "National Free Press" these people were much enthused about the Hitler program. Our paper convinced them of the impossible stand of the Hitler regime and they became sympathizers of our cause.

The entire scenery surrounding the "National Free Press" consists of German-American non-Jews. I am the only German-American of Jewish faith connected with this movement, and at that I am entirely in the background. In all these months I have spent my own money to carry on the work until I have reached my limit. So far I have not received any cooperation or assistance from our Jewish brethren, and I must say it is deplorable to see the lack of interest from that source. Unless we receive the silent financial support of our Jews, to carry on this work, I am afraid I will have to stop.

I have cut down expenses to the minimum, actually to the bone, and until there is a better financial response I even expect to cut the circulation by reducing same considerably. However, even that minimum I cannot afford to carry anymore, and I must look to our Jews for support.

I have had meetings with some of our Jewish leaders; everybody has a different opinion. Everybody wants to furnish me with advice. Advice is free and very cheap, but so far I have not seen any action in a material way from anyone of our prominent Jews.

I have started this work purely out of idealistic reasons. In fact, I have taken an awful chance to even be in the background of this movement on account of my business and political connections. I don't know whether it is known to you that President Roosevelt has offered me an important federal post. Mr. James W. Gerard, former American Ambassador to Germany is my sponsor and through him I have accepted the offer of the President. I expect to take up my activities with the government shortly after the first of the year. Still, in view of the fact of my future connections with the administration, I have gone into this work of the "National Free Press". But I must say that so far the Jews have shown very little interest, if any at all, to help me in my work.



November 28, 1933

I thought I would be able to put this newspaper publication in such shape until the beginning of January, that upon assuming my duties with the government, it will run by itself; but, it does not look this way today.

I am directing this letter to you for I need your advise and your help, in fact, immediate financial support of your friends. I am sending a copy of this letter to Rabbis Solomon Goldman, Freehof, Fox, Hillel Silver, Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Cyrus Adler. It will be appreciated if you would communicate with these gentlemen and work out a plan with them whereby immediate financial help can be secured.

Mr. Max Adler, S. J. T. Straus of Chicago and others have tried to help but so far their cooperation and support resulted with very little financial assistance, not enough to even worth while mention. Mr. Adler gave me so much of his time and his efforts to help the cause of the "National Free Press" are very commendable. However, he expects to leave within the next few days for a three or four months visit to California, which, of course, is a handicap to our future program.

Kindly keep the contents of this letter confidential, and if any financial support could be organized, it must be handled in a very silent and secret way, for if the fact became known that there are Jewish finances backing the "National Free Press", the prestige of the paper would be hurt and the influence lost.

Kindly let me hear from you at your earliest, in fact, it is very urgent that some action is taken immediately.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

ERNEST L. KLEIN,  
Publisher

ELK:DTW



# National Free Press

(Freie Presse)

PHONE: DEARBORN 3158  
118 NORTH LA SALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

December 28, 1933

Rabbi Hillel Silver  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Rabbi Silver:

For three months you are receiving a copy every week of the "National Free Press", a news paper with American ideals for every German-American home.

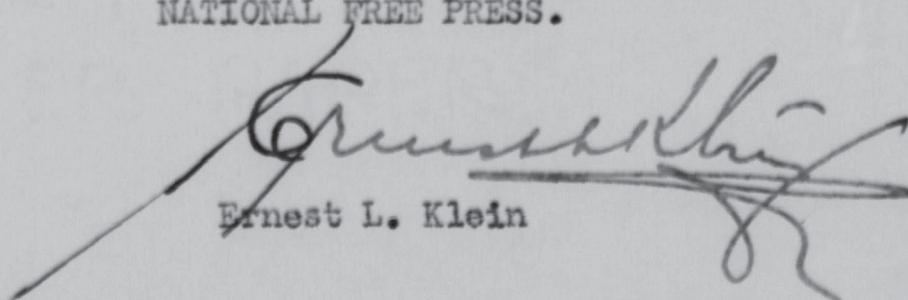
No doubt you have had an opportunity to become acquainted with the aims of the "National Free Press", which are first of all to advocate American principles and to conduct a campaign for enlightenment as to what Hitlerism stands for, what a menace it is and how un-American it is for a German-American to support the Hitler cause.

The "National Free Press" has presented to its readers the true facts about the present day Germany. At the same time German ideals and principles are advocated by the "National Free Press" as long as they are not contrary to our American principles.

It would be much appreciated by the writer if you would write a letter addressed to this office to Dr. Erich Von Schoetter, the Editor of the "National Free Press", expressing your views and making some comments on the work of the "National Free Press".

Thanking you for your courtesy in this matter, I am, with the season's best greetings,

Very sincerely yours,  
NATIONAL FREE PRESS.

  
Ernest L. Klein

ELK:EMW



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Circulation ..... 100,000

Press Ass'ns and Publishing  
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German-American News & Publishing  
Association  
German-American Press Association

January 9, 1934

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
105th Street at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

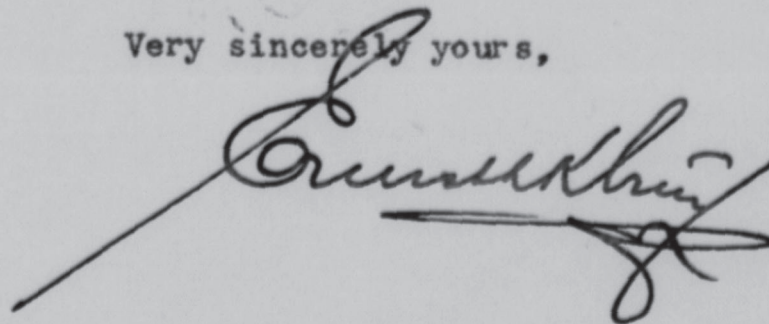
Dear Rabbi Silver:

Mr. Salomon O. Levinson, with whom I had several conferences regarding the National Free Press, suggested today that I go to Cleveland to visit you for the purpose of having a discussion about the work of the National Free Press and about some valuable investigating work which is being conducted by my brother Julius.

Since I am very much pressed for time myself, on account of my various activities and on account of expecting to go most any day to Washington to take up my duties with the administration, I will appreciate if you would wire me when and where it will be convenient for you to see me within the next few days, to give me sufficient time to discuss with you some of these important matters which will also prove to be to your interest and in line with your own work.

Trusting to hear from you at your earliest, I  
am,

Very sincerely yours,



ELK:DTW

Wire on 1-10-34

Will be pleased to see any morning this week



## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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DL = Day Letter  
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Received at 2040 East 9th St., Cleveland, Ohio

TELEPHONE  
 CHERRY 1740, LINE 87

1934 JAN 10 PM 10 05

CE137 51 NL=CHICAGO ILL 10

REV ABBA HILLEE SILVER=

10311 LAKE SHORE BLVD CLEVELAND

WILL SEE YOU SATURDAY EARLY AFTERNOON KINDLY WRITE ME  
 IMMEDIATELY TO 120 NORTH LASALLE ST WHEN AND WHERE I SHALL  
 MEET YOU ALSO PLEASE LET ME HAVE YOUR PHONE NUMBER WHERE  
 I CAN REACH YOU UPON ARRIVAL STOP KINDLY RESERVE AS MUCH  
 OF YOUR TIME FOR ME AS POSSIBLE=

EARNEST L KLEIN.

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER
-----------	------------



January 11, 1934.

Mr. Ernest L. Klein,  
120 North La Salle Street,  
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Klein:

Permit me to acknowledge the  
receipt of your telegram.

I shall be glad to see you at  
The Temple on Saturday afternoon, at  
1 P.M. The telephone number of The  
Temple is Cedar 0133. I shall be in  
a position to give you no more  
time than an hour and a half.

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK



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January 15, 1934

Rabbi Abbe Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th St. at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Thank you very much for the kind reception given me and for allowing me so much of your time. I assure you it was indeed a great pleasure for me to have made your acquaintance and to have had an opportunity to discuss with you a matter in which we both are so keenly interested in.

Having returned to Chicago to my desk, I already found all kinds of difficulties awaiting me. Dr. Erich Von Schroetter is aroused and so are his associates on account of the last Sunday edition of the National Free Press not having been printed. Telephone calls from different parts of the city were received by this office inquiring why the paper has not been mailed.

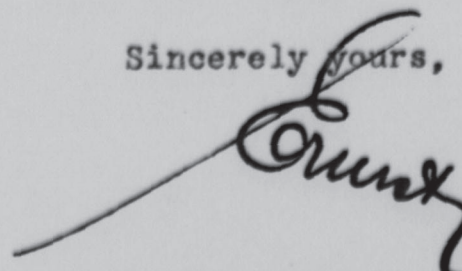
I have not heard from Mr. Levinson as yet. I have not called him, because I thought as long as you promised to phone him, and if he could do something, he would communicate with me.

You suggested that you would also take up this matter with some Eastern connections, and I strongly advise, in the interest of the cause, to do this at once. It is my belief that considerable damage will be done to our cause if this work, which has proven to be so effective, would have to be discontinued.

I have done all I could and I have explained the situation to you most frankly, and I am hopeful that you will be able to work something out whereby this work will be continued.

Kindly let me hear from you, if possible by wire, so that I shall be able to give instructions to continue without further delay. With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,



ELK:DTW



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National Weeklies, Inc. (Winona, Minn.)  
German-American News & Publishing  
Association  
German-American Press Association

January 20, 1934

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th St. at Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The "Deutsch Amerikanische Buerger Zeitung", which is the official organ of the German-American Citizens League, the only German-American political organization in Illinois, composed of all the different German fraternal and social organizations, carried an article in which the "National Free Press" and Mr. Samuel Untermyer are attacked. It is claimed that Samuel Untermyer is the financial backer of the "National Free Press" etc..

I have written to you last week, and I thought I would hear from you in regard to the matter of the National Free Press. It is my belief that it is very urgent that something be done to carry on that work. The activities of the Hitler organizations are becoming stronger every day.

I am enclosing herein a report which I received on January 19, from my Editorial Department.

Trusting to hear from you at your earliest convenience, I am, with kindest personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

ELK:DTW

Encl.



Jan. 20, 1934.

POINTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN ANY ACTION TO BE TAKEN AGAINST THE BUEGERBUND,  
THE BUEGERZEITUNG AND MORTON MEDENWALD, ITS EDITOR.

On December 31, 1933 the "National Free Press" published an article under a seven column streamer: "Rosenberg, Head of Nazi Foreign Office, Offers Part of Austria to Yugoslavia." Other headlines of the story were: Christmas Gift of Dictator to Slavic Kingdom. Startling Revelation of Vienna "Reichspost". Great Excitement in Austrian Circles.

Professor von Schroetter handled this story himself because he is very familiar with the Slavic (Serbian) question of Austria through his diplomatic service in Austria.

Austrians and Germans go together in America, their fraternal life is strongly interwoven. Every German, every Austrian in any country was for the "Anschluss". Since Hitler's rise to power the "National Free Press" considered it wise to play up to the Austro-Americans to recruit them for the fight our men and agents are leading against Hitlerism in the German organizations. The "Rosenberg"-story was in line with this policy, Hitler's rebunciation of Tirol for the benefit of Italy was also played up. Every Austrian who read this story must have warmed up to our cause, if he was not a Hitlerite by then.

In its edition of January 17, 1934 the "Deutsch-Amerikanische Buerger-Zeitung" (German-American Citizens' Paper) published an article of which one paragraph is translated in the following:

"One of the most vicious tricks that were ever played by the Dollfuss Government against the evergrowing national socialist movement was the publication of a news item in the official organ of the chancellor, the Christian-Socialist "Reichspost" stating therein that Germany is ready to give Kaernten (the province Carinthia) to the Yugoslavs in consideration of their help in her fight for annexation of Austria.

"Here in Chicago this plump lie was announced as an established fact by Klein's smudge-sheet which is financed by Samuel Untermyer."

The German-American Citizens' League is the only German-American political organization in the state of Illinois. It is very strong in Chicago and downstate locals are gaining strength lately through intense activities. The league commands considerable respect in political circles and politicians are lending it support. Many German-American fraternities and organizations are members of the league. Their paper, the "Buerger-Zeitung" is published weekly and printed in German. 15,000 copies are mailed out while there are only 1,000 actual subscribers which is a violation of the Postal law.

The article in the "Buerger-Zeitung" is signed by Morton Medenwald the editor of that paper. Medenwald has advocated Hitlerism in America for many years and was very vicious against the Jews in most of his weekly articles.



Medenwald boasted in public that he would never become a citizen of this "Schweineland" (swiny country), he is in America for more than 15 years.

According to the constitution of the league its sole purpose is unification of the German-American vote to gain political advantages for the German-Americans.

The attached clipsheet from the Sentinel of November 8, 1933 contains some information showing very clearly how the germ of Hitlerism is carried into the German organizations.

