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League for Human Rights, Cleveland, Ohio, 1942-1943.

Western Reserve Historical Society

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The Temple

EAST 105TH STREET AT ANSEL ROAD

TELEPHONES GARFIELD 0150-0151

Cleveland

MELBOURNE HARRIS
ASSISTANT RABBI

ABBA HILLEL SILVER, D. D.
RABBI

HARRY A. LEVY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

December 18, 1942

Miss Grace E. Meyette, Director
The League for Human Rights
Chester-Ninth Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Miss Meyette:

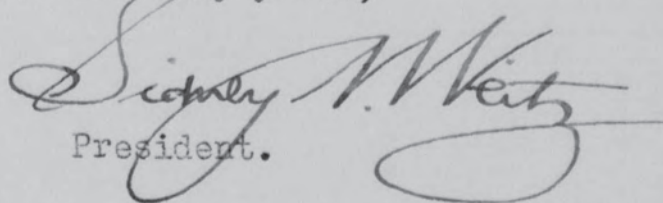
This year marks Rabbi Silver's twenty-fifth year of service to The Temple, and in January he will be fifty years of age. We have planned to commemorate these events on Sunday morning, January 24.

Inasmuch as Rabbi Silver's sphere of activities has extended far beyond The Temple itself, we thought that many of his friends and others with whom he has been associated in the many civic, religious and humanitarian causes, might wish to send a word of greeting and tribute on this occasion.

Included among our plans is the presentation of an anniversary album to Rabbi Silver. This will contain the various tributes paid to him and we shall appreciate it if you will write a word of tribute to be placed, along with others, in this album.

Hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience, and with all good wishes, we remain

Most cordially yours,


President.

SNW:K

January 20, 1943

Mr. Sidney N. Weitz
THE TEMPLE
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Weitz:

During my long and broad experience in Cleveland, I have not known a religious or civic leader who has so consistently and courageously sponsored, often inspired, every cause which served truth and justice as has Rabbi Silver. His active devotion to Human rights, regardless of faith, race, group, or nationality has made Rabbi Silver the outstanding figure of this community.

He has always supported and defended the essential rights of man in their just cause. He has done this with courage and great good humor, even though many times the cause has been unpopular, unapplauded, and misjudged.

The cruelties and deep disillusionments of his adult life have not withered his spirit into cynicism but rather have deepened his quality of living and developed his unusual wisdom. His essential belief in the goodness of man has stimulated devotion to these many human endeavors to protect and defend their rights. All of this has earned for him an unusual place of influence and fellowship far beyond his own group or professional calling.

Cordially yours,

Grace E. Meyette, Director
LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

GEM:MS

The League for Human Rights
511 Chester Ninth Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

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March 9, 1943

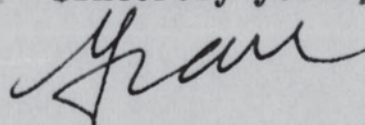
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th St. and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba:

Perhaps this letter should be destroyed, but in any case, I think it should be in your files rather than mine.

I feel like it has been a long time since I have heard from you and hope I shall see you before long.

Sincerely yours,



Grace E. Meyette

GEM:MS

Remember me?

Sent Aug. 20
arr. Sept 23 9

De source sûre.

Le 16 juillet dernier, à partir de 4 heures du matin, 26.000 Juifs ont été arrêtés et emmenés au Vel' d'Hiv', salle Wagram, etc., locaux qui avaient été réquisitionnés à cet effet depuis le début de juillet. Juifs Polonais et Russes pour la plupart.

La police française en avait prévenu beaucoup depuis deux jours, mais la plupart, de pauvres, gens, n'avaient pu trouver où se cacher, ni se procurer les moyens de s'enfuir. La police s'est montrée en général assez humaine. C'est pourquoi depuis cette rafle, 400 agents sont arrêtés, à la Santé ou révoqués.

Scènes déchirantes quand on sépare les enfants au-dessus de trois ans des mères. Une mère jette du 3e étage ses enfants, puis se jette ensuite ; on la recueille jambes brisées pour l'emmener sur une civière. On emmène les accouchées de la veille. Dans un logement, on plante deux agents de garde devant un lit, jusqu'à ce que la femme ait fini d'accoucher.

Conditions au Vel' d'Hiv'. D'après les descriptions des assistantes sociales et infirmières de la Croix-Rouge qui ont pu y pénétrer au bout de plusieurs jours et y apporter quelques aliments (les arrêtés étaient partis emportant un lamentable baluchon et pour un jour de vivres, ou rien), c'est un cauchemar, un enfer, une image dantesque.

Les arrêtés sont assis, serrés sur les gradins, aucune place pour bouger, la piste est garnie de brancards où reposent les mourants. Il faut faire la queue des heures pour aller aux W.C. Les hurlements des femmes séparées de leurs enfants ont empêché les habitants des quartiers environnants de dormir pendant des nuits.

Les nourrissons sont restés 72 heures sans lait. Donc morts. Les enfants à partir de trois ans sont séparés de leur mère et envoyés pêle-mêle dans des locaux d'école vides : Lycée Janson, Louis le Grand, etc. Au bout de quelques heures, ils pataugent dans leur fange affreuse. Parmi les enfants parqués, certains étaient atteints de maladies contagieuses, aussitôt des épidémies se sont déclarées avec une rapidité effrayante dans ces centres sans hygiène.

Des enfants "aryens" qui étaient chez des gardeuses juives ou confiés à une voisine pendant que les parents étaient occupés ont été emmenés et on refuse de les rendre, car, disent les autorités "on connaît le truc".

On a exprès négligé de dresser aucune pièce d'identité ou de liste vérifiée des enfants, pour qu'ensuite leur réidentification soit impossible... Où vont-ils être envoyés ? On espère, on souhaite vivement qu'ils soient confiés aux soins de l'Assistance publique. Ce service, qui passait jadis comme si dur pour les enfants, paraît aujourd'hui, par comparaison, comme la solution la moins mauvaise.

Les enfants de trois à dix-sept ans, nés en France, de ces Juifs étrangers, sont considérés comme Français et relâchés, parfois après une détention de plusieurs jours. En rentrant, ils trouvent l'appartement sous scellés... Livrés à eux mêmes, ou à la compassion des voisins.

Les gens du peuple ont tous fait montre d'une immense pitié et de la plus touchante solidarité. Le 16 (un jeudi) des gens faisaient la queue Rue du Cherche-Midi, devant une boucherie. Ils voient surgir une fillette de 15 ans, échevelée disant : "Vite, on emmène maman, il lui faut une boîte pour mettre quelque nourriture". Aussitôt, toute la queue se dissout, les femmes courent chez elles pour venir apporter à la petite leurs trésors : un bout de chocolat, quelques biscuits... Quelques instants après, la mère passe dans la rue entre des agents. La bouchère lui crie : "On s'occupera de votre fille, elle va rester avec nous !"

Par contre, certains concierges se sont livrés à des délations, signalant leurs locataires Juifs, ou les lieux où ils avaient essayé de ~~xx~~ mettre en sûreté quelques pauvres souvenirs. Quelques appartements pillés, en profitant de la confusion créée par la rafle.

Du Vel'd'Hiv' et autres lieux de rassemblements, les Juifs ont été emmenés au camp de Drancy qui, d'ailleurs, vient d'être vidé, prêt à recevoir de nouvelles victimes. De Drancy, les convois partent vers l'Est (Pologne, Silésie, mines de travaux forcés).

Hôpital Rothschild. - Il a été entièrement vidé, même des malades intransportables. Un opéré d'un cancer à l'estomac, opéré le matin, a été emporté, lui, sur une civière ; mais beaucoup de malades ont été forcés de se lever et de marcher. Denniker, l'homme du Führer pour les questions juives en France, assistait à l'évacuation de l'hôpital, désignant du fouet les victimes à tour de rôle.

Ce Denneker, tout le monde qui l'a vu s'accorde à le reconnaître comme sadique, épileptique, fou, avec des crises caractérisées.

La rafle devait porter au moins sur 30.000 Juifs. On n'en a pris que 26.000, les autres ayant réussi à échapper. Mais on mesure qu'on les trouve. Dans tous les milieux, l'indignation, le désespoir...

D'ailleurs, l'impression générale en zone occupée, c'est que ces mesures seront sans doute appliquées ensuite aux Juifs français, puis à d'autres groupes, les catholiques, ou les intellectuels, etc.....

Quelles que soient les catégories dans lesquelles on se classe, chacun se sent visé.

EUROPE SPEAKS

issued by

THE LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

511 Chester-Ninth Bldg.

Cleveland, Ohio

from

CONFIDENTIAL EUROPEAN LETTERS
TO WHICH IT HAS EXCLUSIVE ACCESS

October 1, 1942

THE LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
511 Chester-Ninth Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

E U R O P E S P E A K S

(No. 5)

Reliable inside material from Nazi-Europe.
Provided through confidential channels by
Elizabeth E. Blencke

FRANCE

Persecution of the Jews

In Paris, July 16, at 4 o'clock in the morning, 26,000 Jews have been arrested and interned at the Velodrome d'Hiver, at Wagram Hall and other localities which had been requisitioned for this purpose in the earlier part of July. Most of the arrested Jews are Poles and Russians.

The police had been informed in advance and had warned the Jews, but most of them were not able to procure money in order to try an escape. The police behaved rather well, for this reason, 400 of them have been meanwhile arrested or dismissed.

Desperate scenes took place. Three year old children were separated from their mothers. One mother threw her children out of a fourth floor window and jumped after them. Their injured bodies were grabbed and carried away. Maternity cases and the aged were not spared. In one apartment, two guards were posted in front of a bed in which a woman was giving birth.

A Jewish Frenchman, himself an enlisted volunteer and wounded war veteran, writes in a letter from Paris, July 21st:

"I hope you received my letter of the 14th of July, in which I described the atmosphere in which we live here in Paris. From different quarters we are warned that it would be advisable for us to leave. Some of these warnings come from those quarters which are assigned for the execution of the persecution. Wednesday evening a friend of mine who had visited with me was approached in the subway by a stranger who greeted him friendly and told him that he had known him at his place of work. When this man left at the next stop he whispered into the ear of my friend that he, the stranger, was a police officer and that he would advise him not to sleep home tonight. This happened before 8 o'clock at night, the hour of curfew for Jews. As you see, we had been warned all around. Nevertheless, we did not believe the warning, we thought it would be raids such as have occurred before. Some Jews did not go home and escaped the terror for the time being. What really happened surpasses human imagination. But then, humanity is not a part of our time. Those who still are able to hide cannot return to their homes. It is questionable whether they can be saved and whether anything can be done for them. It started July 16th at 4 o'clock a.m. and it still continues to happen. Just now I hear a raid in the street again. Women and children of foreign origin are arrested but of course the men also do not escape. We lived through days of utter atrocities. Women with children threw themselves in desperation out of windows. The persecution took place openly and without mercy."

CONDITIONS IN THE
VELODROME D'HIVER

Social workers and nurses of the CROIX ROUGES, who were able to visit the internees and bring them some food, tell that it is a nightmare, a hellish scene from Dante.

The prisoners are packed sitting in the rows. There is no place to eat. The aisles are filled with stretchers of the dying. Mothers who are separated from their children moan all night and disturb the sleep of the others. Babies have been left without milk for 72 hours. Consequently, many died.

The Jewish Frenchman writes:

"We have not heard of those arrested. There is the rumor that they are already on their way to Eastern Europe. I received from the Velodromed'Hiver a terrifying picture. There the women who have children are imprisoned. The young girls and the women without children had been brought to Drancy. Premature birth takes place frequently and also scarlet fever and other contagious diseases have appeared. The Velodrome is filled to excess. Men, women, children are placed together. There is no room to lie down to sleep. Lines are standing in front of the washrooms. For six days now these poor people suffer in this way awaiting the announcement of their fate. I learned from a reliable source that 160 girls from Camp Lilas have been selected for prostitution."

The Jews who have been brought to the Velodrome d'Hiver and other reception centers have been shipped to the Camp of Drancy. From here they are sent to the East: Poland and Silesia, in order to work as workers' battallions in the mines. The emptied reception centers then are filled again with new victims.

ROTHSCHILD HOSPITAL

This hospital has been vacated of all patients, even of those not fit to be transported. A man who had been operated on in the morning for cancer of the stomach had been carried away on a stretcher. But many others were forced out of their beds and had to walk. Denneker, Hitler's representative in Paris for the Jewish in France, supervised the evacuation of this hospital himself and pointed out with his whip the victims and what should be done to them.

Everybody who knows Denneker agrees that he is a sadistic, epileptic pervert.

The raid was supposed to produce 30,000 Jews. Only 26,000 were found, the others had succeeded in escaping. But some of them are found every day.

The impression in the occupied zone is that these measures are now tried on Jews in order to use them later on other groups such as Catholics, Intellectuals and others.

SUFFER LITTLE
CHILDREN

Children of three years of age or older have been separated from their mothers and have been sent without proper arrangements to vacant schools such as Lycée Janson, Louis le Grand and others. After several hours they had dirtied themselves and nobody cleaned them. Among those children are several who are afflicted with contagious diseases and epidemics develop with rapidity.

The so-called "aryan" children who lived in Jewish foster homes, or had been in the care of neighbors while their parents were working have been sent away and the authorities refuse to surrender them. They say: "they know the trick."

It has been neglected to identify the children who have been seized. No lists have been made of them. Re-identification of the smaller ones is as good

as impossible. Where will they be sent to? Everybody hopes and prays that they will be given over eventually to Public Welfare. This service which in the past had been considered not especially desirable appears today, in comparison, as the least objectionable solution.

Children from three to seventeen years of age who have been born in France by foreign Jewish parents are considered French. After a few days of confinement, they have been released. They found their homes sealed and are on their own unless charitable neighbors take them in.

REACTION OF THE
PEOPLE OF PARIS

The non-Jewish population showed many signs of sympathy. Here are some examples. Whole families are hidden by the population, in caves and in empty apartments. Care for abandoned children has been arranged. A friend told me that in one of his houses the following happened: Father and mother had been arrested, but three children were left alone. Their desperate crying awakened a neighbor who went to see what was the matter. She dressed the children and went with them to the German authorities and stated in indignation, how could one possibly arrest the parents of such small children and leave them to their fate. The Germans kept the children and this woman had been arrested and sent to a concentration camp.

On the 16th, people were standing in their lines at a butcher store at the Rue du Cherche-Midi. A girl of fifteen approached in agitation and said: "My mother is led away; I have to get some food for her to take." The line vanished, people went home for some precious food like chocolate bars and cookies in order to give it to the girl. Later, when this mother passed by between two policemen, the butcher called to her: "Do not worry about your daughter, she will stay with us."

Some report that janitors have informed the authorities where Jews have hidden themselves or where they have stored some valuables. Some apartments have been plundered, the thieves taking advantage of the general confusion.

REPORT OF MRS. F..... FROM MUELHAUSEN-RHINE

about

HER EXPERIENCES IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMP OF SCHIRMECK-RHINE

(Mrs. F., a German woman, is now released and is recuperating. She has to stay in bed six out of seven days. She learned after her release that her father had been shot in August 1940, in the concentration camp at Dachau.)

We had to rise at five minutes to five; dress in the "beautiful" camp garb and appear for roll-call at 5 o'clock. Then we had exercises for two hours. At 7 o'clock we start working. Women have to do the cleaning, the laundry and knit for the German army. At 11:30 a.m. we receive the famous camp soup with some stray vegetables in the water but no bread. At noon another roll-call. 600 men on one side of the barbed wire; 200 women on the other. Again two hours of exercise. After one hour we are almost exhausted and would like to die, but we have to go on. Then we receive our daily oratory of 10 to 15 minutes. Again work until 6:30. Now we receive our second bowl of soup, the same kind as we received at noon, but accompanied by 100 gram of bread. Though one craves to swallow it at once, most of us save it for the next morning that it may serve as substitute for the missing breakfast. We all are starving -- imagine, 100 gram of bread a

day and two bowls of thin soup!

Each and every Nazi officer has the right to question, to torment and to torture us. They do it for entertainment. After supper we may talk until 9 o'clock, when we have to go to bed. But you will only have your talk if you are not among those who have to report for punishment. They are whipped -- between 7 and 9 o'clock -- women and men. The smallest error during the day, a grimace or an answer you gave, it is all paid for at night. Women receive five straight blows on their back. Men have to undress, stretch over benches and are covered with a wet cloth. They receive up to 25 blows and are afterwards either dead or almost dead. I have seen them die with my own eyes. I once was punished with the so-called "cat." That is a passage in which you have to crawl. You can neither lie down nor stand straight, nor sleep, nor stretch out. I stayed in this contraption for three days. When I was released I walked like a beast on all fours. I was not the only one. Others walked like myself. While in there you receive soup only once, at 1:00 o'clock p.m. I have seen people turn mad in this torture chamber. Those are sent to the hospital for the insane in Stephansfeld. The physician there has been, himself, denounced by his colleague in Benfeld where he had been a general practitioner.

The men in the camp work very hard. They build roads, make them, unmake them and remake them again. They have a machine, but the motor of this machine is a group of men chained to it like animals. Nine to the right, nine to the left, and nine in the middle. They have a rope around their hollow stomachs. On the machine sits the "doryphore" who beats the men at his pleasure. Two days before I left, this beating was discontinued. Sometimes the backs of the beaten men were bruised for a week. Sometimes the Nazis cut the swastika on the stomachs and an eagle on the backs of these men.

At La Broque I heard for the first time in my life the crying or rather the howling of tortured human beings. We were awakened at night because it pleased the officers to question us. When I was still half asleep and did not stand at attention, I was beaten.

These are barbarian Nazi-atrocities. One day, I and many others will testify!

POLAND

(From official German Documents)

STARVATION June 29, 1942. German children under the age of six will receive half a pound of honey on coupon K1k3 37/38 of their fat-card.

July 1, 1942. The German population will receive extra provisions on their coupon 38 consisting of 6 bouillon cubes and 2 soup cubes.

Poles will not be served on the market before 11 a.m. on market days.

July 2, 1942. Registered Germans will receive at their dealer at once half a pound of fish.

CAPTIVES "In order to satisfy the need for recreation of the German population, Poles are not permitted, starting July 6, 1942, to use the railroad on Sunday and holidays. This restriction does not apply to Poles who work on Sundays, and can provide a certificate of such work by their

employers. The permits for those workers will be distributed through their factories. Poles who because of emergencies such as sickness or important business have to use the trains on Sundays have to apply for a permit at their local police office."

MURDER

"Ostdeutsche Beobachter", a German paper, published in Posen, reports frequently about death sentences against Poles for minor offenses. Nr. 176 of June 28 reports about a death sentence of a maid in a special court. She had repeatedly refused to finish her work and even threw a rag into the face of her mistress. When she was reprimanded for her sloppiness, she forced her mistress against the wall and insulted her. The court is of the opinion that any Pole who raises his hand against a German is due to die."

SLAVES

Order for East-European workers. Reichs-Gesetzblatt,* July 2nd, Page 419:

"East-European workers are those non-Germans who have been registered in the Reichs-Commissariat of the Ukraine, in the General Commissariat of White Ruthenia or in those sections east of the above mentioned districts, or east of the former Republics of Latvia and Estonia and who after the seizure of these sections by the Reich have been transferred as labor forces into the Reich and into Bohemia and Moravia. East-European workers have special working arrangements in the Reich. Wages are scaled according to performance. The wage is computed at a percentage paid to German workers for equal performance. Overtime and Sunday work will pay the ordinary wage. In case of sickness and accident, hospitalization will be provided. Vacations and visits to the family are not permissible. The workers have no right to demand a record of their wages. Employers will charge to the workers transportation from barrack to factory. As East-European workers will receive much lower wages than German workers, the employers have to pay the "East-European worker's tax" to the Reich. The workers themselves are not demanded to pay taxes. Their savings are to be sent to their families.

Computation Sample of Wages of East-European Workers

Rate of German Workers

East-European Workers

250 Reichsmark

106.50 Reichsmark

Deduction
for food
and
shelter

45.00 "

Cash
paid out
to worker

61.50 "

The employers save by employing an East-European worker, 139.50 Reichsmark. This amount will be the "East-European Worker's tax" payable to the Reich."

Thus, the Reich runs a slave-market and cuts in on the exploitation of the slaves 100 per cent.

* Official publication of new laws.

GEORGE BENDER

We the citizens of the State of Ohio believe that George Bender should not be re-elected to Congress. This belief is based on his public record of isolationism and obstruction during the past two years.

We are not questioning his sincerity nor his patriotism but we do not wish our district to be represented by a man whose judgement has been so consistently wrong.

Sincerity and patriotism are noble qualities but they are not enough if intelligence is lacking. The man who is to represent us for these next two years must be above the average in intelligence and should not try to lay the blame for his errors on his constituents by saying, "80% of my people felt as I did about this."

It is no excuse for a Congressman to say that he voted on matters of foreign policy in accordance with the wishes of his constituents. A Congressman is in a position to know more about many matters than his constituents do. He has many sources of secret and official information that are denied to them. Furthermore, he is supposed to devote his time to the study of public affairs. If 80% of his constituents are misinformed and misguided it is the Congressman's duty to correct their misinformation, and to vote as the best interests of the country demand.

If the way he votes in times of crisis is so determined by his personal hatred of the administration and its leaders that he cannot evaluate the issues at stake, how can he be trusted to guide his country through the perils which lie ahead?

If he consistently misjudges situations, if he needs a Pearl Harbor to wake him up to the realities of life, he is not fitted to be the representative of two hundred thousand people.

In the summer of 1940 Poland, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Holland and France had been conquered by the Nazis. England was being attacked and her situation was desperate. Hitler had announced that it was to be war to the death between his New Order and the Democratic way of life.

At that time we had a small standing army suited to peacetime conditions. President Roosevelt and General Marshall, realizing that soldiers cannot be trained

The League for Human Rights
508 Chester Ninth Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

for mechanized warfare in a few weeks, asked for the Selective Service Bill to be passed. It should have been obvious to anybody that we needed an army, and needed it quickly.

Mr. Bender's reaction to this situation was to follow Lindbergh, the number one Nazi hero, in his denial of danger to the United States. He said it need not matter to us which side won. If like ostriches, we ignored the danger and minded our own business we could do business with either side. He said a group of war mongers, lead by Roosevelt, a dictator surpassing Hitler and Stalin were trying to stampede us into war and totalitarianism. With great animus, and little logic, Mr. Bender argued against the building up defenses to protect ourselves because we were unprepared because of Mr. Roosevelt. This from Bender, who in the interest of defense voted against fortifying Guam in 1938 and 1939; against lifting the arms embargo in 1939; for retaining the arms embargo provisions of the neutrality act in 1939; against the military airplane appropriation bill in 1939.

Mr. Lindbergh said, and Mr. Bender quoted him on the floor:

Mr. Bender - July 11, 1940 - Congressional Record

...I wish to call attention to a statement made by an expert, Colonel Lindbergh..."Let us not be confused by this talk of invasion by European aircraft. The air defense of America is as simple as the attack is difficult when the true facts are faced. We are in danger of war today not because European people have attempted to interfere with the internal affairs of America but because American people have attempted to interfere with the internal affairs of Europe.

..."As long as American nations work together, as long as we maintain reasonable defense forces, there will be no invasion by foreign aircraft; and no foreign navy will dare to approach within bombing range of our coasts.

..."To be successful in modern warfare, a nation must prepare many years before the fighting starts. If anyone doubts that, let him turn his eyes to Europe...

..."Let us stop this hysterical chatter of calamity and invasion that has been running rife these last few days. It is not befitting to the people who built this Nation.

..."Regardless of which side wins this war, there is no reason, aside from our own actions, to prevent a continuation of peaceful relationships between America and the countries of Europe. If we desire peace, we need only stop asking for war. No one wishes to attack us, and no one is in a

position to do so. The only reason that we are in danger of becoming involved in this war is because there are powerful elements in America who desire us to take part. They represent a small minority of the American people, but they control much of the machinery of influence and propaganda. They seize every opportunity to push us closer to the edge."

Mr. Bender - Congressional Record - August 19, 1940

...The administration now means about our lack of preparedness. New Dealers are responsible for unemployment, for unpreparedness, and for bankrupting the Nation."

Mr. Bender and his friend Mr. John Schafer of Wisconsin, carried on the following dialogue in the floor of the House:

Mr. Bender and Mr. Schafer - Congressional Record - September 3, 1940.

Mr. Bender: ...I call your attention to other conduct of the present President of the United States. Every action of his has indicated all the time he has been in public life that he considers himself greater than the law...Now you propose turning over a million men to him to play with like checkers on a checkerboard...I have here an article which appeared in the Saturday Evening Post of July 13: "With no notice to the American people or to the Congress that is supposed to interpret their will, this country entered the war 4 days ago. Stranger than the fact was the passive acceptance of it." In the beginning Roosevelt sent over "obsolete" planes -- and if the planes were obsolete what in the world could the British do with them -- then he sent over "obsolete" guns, now he is sending "obsolete" warships, and pretty soon he will be sending "obsolete" men. Any device at all that suits the convenience of the President is used in order to get us into this war by the back door. I say that it is essential for us to take inventory and understand what is happening to us, and to tell the people of America what is happening to them -- that we are being taken into socialism by the back door and being taken into the World War by the back door.

Mr. Schafer: ...Should the gentleman criticize our ex-international banker, New Deal Fuehrer Mr. Roosevelt, who unfortunately is afflicted with hallucinations and delusions of grandeur the same as Herr Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini which cause these four dictators to believe that they are capable persons in their nations, created by God to rule those nations with an iron hand, irrespective of the rights of men?

Mr. Bender: The gentleman answers his own question...The power of peacetime conscription, in the hands of an administration that has proved by its record to have utilized every conceivable excuse for regimenting America overturning all tradition and changing our form of government, is nothing but an invitation to disaster."

Mr. Bender again:

Mr. Bender - Congressional Record - September 26, 1940.

...I know that our people hate everything that Hitler stands for, we despise dictatorship in any form, but I challenge anyone to tell us the difference between the Executive orders issued by Roosevelt and those issued by Hitler. We in America hate secret diplomacy, but every step

in the negotiations between Great Britain and our Government is secret.

...Let me point out to you that it is 2 years almost to the hour of the Munich conference. You remember that week, the unholy week in modern history, the Munich conference, when the umbrella man from England was there along with the umbrella man from France, and the Umbrella man from America was sticking his nose into the whole business and taking credit for the deal.

...We are paying premium prices now for defense mechanisms, which, if Mr. Roosevelt had been on his toes and had made the request of a Congress that was his, if he had asked for the money, it would have most certainly been forthcoming."

Mr. Bender realizes the value of our army now and says that it is not fair to bring up anything that happened before Pearl Harbor. He says that many others thought as he did back in 1940. Mr. Bender is right. Here is what some of them said:

Deutscher Weckruf, organ of the German-American Bund, (now suppressed as German agency), in an article on conscription, July 4, 1940: "Talk of regimentation and militarism! Talk of Adolf Hitler and Josef Stalin!"

Social Justice, (now suppressed for sedition), August 12, 1940: "The spirit behind the Burke-Wadsworth bill is a spirit of lust for power. The intelligence behind the Burke-Wadsworth bill is bent upon whipping up the citizenry of America into a state of hysteria so that, like sheep, they can be herded into the slaughter-house of dictatorship."

Social Justice, July 1, 1940.

"Having failed to rehabilitate an America that languished in a depression, he is moving rapidly along the road that leads to war."

Liberation, (the paper of William Dudley Pelley, now on trial for sedition), September 7, 1940:

"With the passing of the Conscription bill by Congress...we depart a republic and become a totalitarian State."

Publicity, (now suppressed for sedition), August 1, 1940: "Down with the arbitrary conscription movement and no compulsory military training fiasco."

August 8, 1940: "The big question asked of the newdealers and the 3rd term advocates relative to CONSCRIPTION AND COMPULSORY TRAINING of the American youths of this nation. Why essential and WHERE IS THE EMERGENCY?"

X-Ray, (now suppressed for sedition), August 24, 1940: "The Roosevelt--international banker compulsory military training moves in giant strides... It will give Roosevelt more power than either Hitler or Stalin. In a nut-shell, it makes us a nation of serfs."

Thus we see Mr. Bender, quite "sincerely and patriotically," line up with those who have since been exposed as enemies of our country. Mr. Bender did not realize on

whose side he was fighting. But we want a Congressman who is smart enough to know who our enemies are.

In January 1941, Britain had beaten off the German assault but she was still in a bad way. Her industries had been severely damaged and her military supplies were running low. The President asked Congress to pass the Lend-Lease Bill so that we could give aid to the countries fighting Hitler and keeping him away from us.

The situation was desperate enough to be one of continued resistance or defeat though the isolationist chose to distort and becloud the issue. Some sought to present it to the country as a war and peace bill - others as another step toward dictatorship. While still others read into it the bankruptcy of America. Though the world knew that if England fell our freedom was in peril, Mr. Bender voted against the bill. Of course most of us wished an English victory, he said, but England had never stated her war aims or her peace terms.

Mr. Bender - Congressional Record - January 29, 1941.

..."If the American people consent to lend themselves once more to a bloody nightmare, we are entitled to know precisely for what we are fighting. The emotional phrase is no longer sufficient to satisfy the American mind. And emotion has been largely the diet on which our Government has been feeding during these last hectic months. In all the discussion of aid to Britain which has taken place during the last year, our people have been proceeding without one of the most important elements necessary for an intelligent appraisal of our position. No nation can willingly and intelligently offer its assistance to any other nation without some knowledge of the purpose for which that help is ultimately to be used.

...Today there is talk of "all-out aid for Britain"; yet simultaneously there comes word that the British Government itself continued to maintain more than 200 5,000-ton British cargo ships along the sea lanes between Great Britain and South America seeking to make up for England's lost European trade. While England battles for her life, hostile news reports spread the rumor that English vessels are still trading with Spain and that their cargoes are being used to forge new weapons for Nazi Europe with which to afflict the very English who produce them. None of this sounds like fair and open diplomacy. All of it bears the questionable tang of economic warfare into which the people of the United States must be reluctant to enter."

Mr. Bender wants us to forget this now. He thinks it is of no importance that he tried to keep help from Britain in the far distant past of eighteen months ago. He still thinks he is fit to judge of any new situation that may arise.

As in August, 1940, Mr. Bender was not alone in his views on the desirability of Lend-Lease aid.

Deutscher Weckruf, (suppressed for sedition), January 16, 1941. Front page headlines. "A BILL TO DESTROY THE REPUBLIC, THE MAKING OF AN AMERICAN DICTATOR..."

January 30, 1941: "As you love the United States and its institutions, let your protest against the treason bill H.R. 1776 be heard in Washington."

"There is no 'emergency' save such as the President creates every time he wants a free hand to use the United States as a pawn for Britain's imperialistic purposes.

"Free America of its dictators by rendering them impotent to guide the country's destiny. Germany has been our friend from our infancy. It has no designs on our territory or our institutions, while England has been our constant enemy."

Deutscher Weckruf, June 20, 1940.

Are we going to save democracy again, though we are still deep in the red from the last rescue.

Social Justice, (suppressed for sedition), February 3, 1941: "The lend-lease bill, we repeat, is the last and final effort to bury 1776 and its traditions. The lend-lease bill is definitely a wolf in sheep's clothing. Its real name is the dictatorship bill."

Jan. 27, 1941: "H.R. 1776, is not known at the present writing as 'the dictatorship bill!'"

"It is commonly referred to as the 'all-aid-to-Britain-short-of-war-bill.' Its supporters popularly call it a 'lend-lease' bill. 'Knowing that names are deceiving -- and purposely so, according to the ethics of politicians -- we are of the opinion that, then years hence, when Congress (if Congress is then in existence) investigates the causes of the present World War and our implication in it, it will be discovered that H.R. 1776 was an attempt to turn this Republic of the United States into a Socialistic dictatorship, surpassing in its confiscations of liberty and property the National Socialist Government of Germany."

Roll-Call (Paper of William Dudley Pelley, now on trial for sedition, January 18, 1941: "Following is the verbatim text of the sensational War-Dictatorship Bill which was introduced in both Houses of Congress on January 10th. If this Bill should become an Act of Congress, the members of both Houses will have surrendered their constitutional authority to the gentleman who is -- at this moment -- President of the United States. President Roosevelt would cease to be Chief Executive of the nation the instant his signature is affixed to the Act. From that instant, Franklin Delano Roosevelt will be a DICTATOR... With no Constitutional authority for such a departure, Franklin Delano Roosevelt becomes America's FUHRER! Is this the role he has connived at from the beginning?"

The measure is being promoted as a bill to aid Britain. That is plain subterfuge and vicious nonsense. The Congress will have abdicated. Making this Bill an Act of Congress will destroy this Republic."

Publicity, (suppressed for sedition), February 6, 1941:
Printed in blackrimmed box, "IN MEMORY OF THOSE YOUNG AMERICAN BOYS
WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE SO THAT INTERNATIONAL JEWRY MAY LIVE, IF AND
WHEN HOUSE BILL 1776 IS ENACTED BY CONGRESS."

February 13, 1941: "Let the Christian American people arouse and arise
and urge their senators to vote against that iniquitous 1776 bill, which
if enacted will crucify America as Christ was crucified."

February 20, 1941: H.R. 1776 has been passed by your subservient, weak,
foreign-minded and foreign dominated House of Representatives. This
infamous bill destroys the powers and sworn duties of your Congress. It
very definitely creates a dictatorship in this country...and forces us
to preserve the British Empire, thereby perpetuating in abject slavery
the millions of serfs of the British Empire... As a further result it
will DESTROY AMERICAN LIBERTY at home, and will condemn America and the
rest of the world to a period of poverty and misery the like of which
has never been known."

The sad forebodings of the isolationists and the seditious press were not realized.
Congress is still functioning. Mr. Roosevelt is not a dictator. And we went to war,
not to save the British Empire, but to protect ourselves.

About a year ago the President asked Congress to extend the term of service of
selectees for the duration of the emergency. This was an obvious common sense
measure, the wisdom of which is doubted by no one today. Not even by Mr. Bender.

But at that time Mr. Bender, like an echo from the fascist press, declared this
was breaking faith and another step toward war. In fact, ever measure taken to in-
sure our safety brought cries of "War-mongering" and protests that there was no dan-
ger from the isolationists.

Mr. Bender - Congressional Record - July 24, 1941

..."Our draftees went to their camps with the expectation of serving
12 months. They anticipated membership in some force of reserve corps
after this year of service had expired. They did not bargain for their
own Government breaking faith with them. As for the new emergency, it
is difficult to find justification for it. China is still holding out
in the Far East...Only the militarists in America find more danger now
than there was a year ago..."

Mr. Bender - Congressional Record - July 17, 1941

..."The national administration is determined not on peace but on
direct intervention."

Mr. Bender - Congressional Record - July 15, 1941

..."Clarence Buddington Kelland, a prominent writer, (and a prominent
America Firster)", recently wrote the following:... 'So, as a first
garanty, let his administration place our affairs in the hands of men
who are worthy to handle those affairs. Let it remove and coast into

oblivion those individuals whose gross caperings and intolerance and inefficiency and social scheming have brought our domestic affairs to their present dire pass...The closing of German consulates throughout the United States, the freezing of Axis assets, and the recent redeclaration of the traditional freedom of the seas by the President are drastic measures which must inevitably call public attention to the imminence of American intervention in the European war. The order expelling all Nazi diplomatic representatives from the country marks the first time in our history when foreign consulates have been ordered shut in time of peace. Its significance can scarcely be exaggerated.

"Taken together with the White House's virtual rejection of the principles enunciated by Congress in the Neutrality Act and the representations entered into by our State Department and the German Government growing out of the sinking of the Robin Moor, the unprecedented diplomatic rebuff administered to Nazi Germany by our State Department must be viewed as a step of the utmost gravity. Events at home no less than our conduct of negotiations with foreign governments point to a determined effort by the national administration to involve us in war..."

Hitler's friends in this country also were opposed to any extension of the draft.

Deutscher Weckruf, July 21, 1941: "Each week the war-makers contrive some new scheme in the name of national defense, but that is a scheme to add another step to the trip down the dark path to war. The latest is to break faith with the young men who were drafted by forcing them to stay in the Army, not merely beyond the year of service, but as long as the emergency lasts."

Publicity, July 24, 1941: In order to adequately oil up his "rubber stamp" congressional machine President Roosevelt planned to solidify his overt act by suggesting an extended service for the national guards, without consulting the victims. He addressed his 'stooges' and insisted that the dangers of Nazi invasion were now definitely greater than a year ago. This appeals to Publicity as only war-mongering bunk..."

Publicity, September 4, 1941 (article by Norman Wilson). The break of faith with the conscript army is but another in the long succession of low deceptions perpetrated by Roosevelt. This last has engendered discontent and sown seeds of revolt. Our soldiers must have a Commander-in-Chief upon whose integrity they can rely.

Social Justice, September 22, 1941: "The search has been continuous for incidents of provocation, -- even if we have to make them."

Last November, a month before Pearl Harbor, the question of arming merchant ships and lifting belligerent zones was brought before Congress. Though Mr. Bender did not voice his opinion, still in voting against the lifting of belligerent zones he upheld the Axis line of reasoning, as set forth in the pro-Nazi press. They were of course opposed to any measure which would increase our aid to the countries fighting Hitler.

They professed to see in these measures the same old plot to get us into war and create a dictatorship in the United States.

Deutscher Weckruf, October 16, 1941: "It is generally predicted that the arming of American ships sent into the war zones will pass in the rubber stamp Congress, hypnotized as it is by the executive head of the government. And if that doesn't get us into war it will be a miracle."

Social Justice, October 20, 1941: "What is Hitler supposed to do when he sees the American flag flying from the mast of an American merchantman, the hold of which is filled with airplane parts and from whose deck grins a battery of guns?

"Let us be logical. Hitler will attempt to sink these boats. Then the front pages of the newspapers will cry out that the Nazis have assaulted the American flag. A shooting war -- declared or undeclared -- will be in progress.

"It will be a shooting war for the defense of the British Empire."

Social Justice, November 17, 1941: To the uninitiated we are supposed to be fighting a war to save democracy and to extend the four freedoms around the world. To those in the know it is quite apparent that Mr. Roosevelt is endeavoring to "out-Hitler" Hitler by establishing a more savage form of Nazism in America than was ever proposed for Continental Europe."

Roll Call, November 24, 1941: "All that the arming of such American freight vessels really does is to ensure their being sunk without warning, and without a single member of the crew escaping."

"The anti-Hitler elements want the vessels destroyed. It is part of their conspiracy to embroil the Americans."

"Then the President obviously has it in his mind to go before Congress, tell the nation that we have been "attacked" by Germany...that we are actually in the war and waging it, and that he wants Congress to recognize the fact by formal declaration.

"Thus the sane and sober elements of the Republic will see the final consummation of as sinister a conspiracy against the peace, the security, the lives, liberties and properties of the United States and its citizens, as can be found in history."

Publicity, November 6, 1941: "A vote to revise the neutrality act to suit the tische-Politische Korrespondenz: "It is very significant that the United States President gets another North American destroyer torpedoed at the very moment when he needs a strong parliamentary majority for a change in the Neutrality law...Scarcely ever in history can falsification and lying have belonged in such a way to a system whereby political developments and decisions are created as today in Roosevelt's case."

Following is Mr. Bender's record over the past critical years. It is the record on which he asks for re-election. It is a record which speaks for itself.

Mr. Bender makes no apologies, no admission that he was consistently wrong on most vital matters of foreign policy. It does not disturb him that he was always found on the side of the pro-Nazis and the subversive groups. His only reaction to the whole business is to demand that his constituents forget the past, which is their only way of judging of the future, and send him back to Congress in this most serious crisis of the world in order that he may blunder and bungle again.

The isolationist groups denounce any criticism of their records as a "smear" and a totalitarian plot to destroy the respect of the people for Congress. What has Mr. Bender done to build up respect for Congress or give his people confidence in the government. He has fought steadily against almost every progressive and social proposal the last four years. His contribution to the present war effort is to oppose those bills considered necessary to the defense and welfare of his country. His only comments are criticisms of the details of the war machinery. It would appear that he not only is willing to destroy his people's respect for their governing officers, but is endeavoring to arouse doubt and confusion and suspicion in their minds. It is true that criticism has a necessary place, but it is also true that much is being accomplished which would inspire confidence and that people have a right to know this side of the story also.

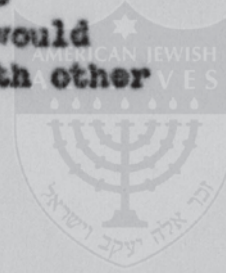
It is because we wish to retain the respect of the people for Congress that we oppose Mr. Bender's re-election. The people will not respect Congress unless it deserves respect, unless statesmanship is substituted for party politics and wisdom for prejudice.

We do not want our Representatives in Congress to spend his time fighting President Roosevelt, whose understanding of the world situation has been proved correct, while the country is at war with Hitler.

We are making no accusations against Mr. Bender's patriotism, honesty or integrity, but we feel that the time has come for him to retire to private life.

Where did Mr. Bender stand on the following measures so vital for the defense and protection of his country?

Fortification of Guam	Against	1938
Lifting the Arms Embargo	Against	1939
Military Airplane Appropriation	Against	1939
Modifying Neutrality Law to allow more specific Aid to Allies	Against	1939
Three year Extension of Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act	Against	1940
Conscription Bill	Against	1940
Lend Lease Bill	Against	1941
Draft Extension	Against	1941
Acceptance of Inter-American Coffee Agreement (Failure to accept this would be a blow to friendly relations with other American countries)	Against	1941
First Lend Lease Appropriation	For	1941
Repeal of Ban on Arming Ships	For	1941
Ship Seizure Bill	Against	1941
Second Lend Lease Bill	For	1941
Lifting of Belligerent Zones	Against	1941



HON. GEORGE BENDER

Representative of Ohio
Excerpts from the Congressional Record

The League for Human Rights
508 Chester-Ninth Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

MR. BENDER - Page 13918 - July 3, 1940

...The New Deal for the past 7 years and more has destroyed the incentive of our people. Republicans are not alone in their assertion that huge segments of our population have been pauperized by the program created at Washington. Social workers, who come into daily contact with thousands of families each year, will testify to the creation of a new attitude of shiftless indifference in thousands of young people...There can be no future for a Nation afflicted with this mortal disease of self-destruction.

MR. BENDER - Page 14405 - July 11, 1940

...I wish to call attention to a statement made by an expert, Colonel Lindbergh.
..."Let us not be confused by this talk of invasion by European aircraft. The air defense of America is as simple as the attack is difficult when the true facts are faced. We are in danger of war today not because European people have attempted to interfere with the internal affairs of America but because American people have attempted to interfere with the internal affairs of Europe.
..."As long as American nations work together, as long as we maintain reasonable defense forces, there will be no invasion by foreign aircraft; and no foreign navy will dare to approach within bombing range of our coasts.
..."To be successful in modern warfare, a nation must prepare many years before the fighting starts. If anyone doubts that, let him turn his eyes to Europe. Years ago we decided to stay out of foreign wars. We based our military policy on that decision. We must not waver now that the crisis is at hand. There is no longer time for us to enter this war successfully. The result of vacillating policies lies clearly before us in the chaos of Europe today.
..."Let us stop this hysterical chatter of calamity and invasion that has been running rife these last few days. It is not befitting to the people who built this Nation.
..."Regardless of which side wins this war, there is no reason, aside from our own actions, to prevent a continuation of peaceful relationships between American and the countries in Europe. If we desire peace, we need only stop asking for war. No one wishes to attack us, and no one is in a position to do so. The only reason that we are in danger of becoming involved in this war is because there are powerful elements in America who desire us to take part. They represent a small minority of the American people, but they control much of the machinery of influence and propaganda. They seize every opportunity to push us closer to the edge.

MR. BENDER - Page 15823 - August 14, 1940

...I want to make this observation. It appears that the Chief of Staff of the Army was asleep at the switch when we consider the manner in which money Congress appropriated was spent during the past 7 years. In checking the record we found that most equipment was "on order" and that we were not prepared, and we should have been, considering the money that was expended. I say that we need to re-examine every statement that the Chief of Staff has made or is making in connection with all these matters, so that we may know more clearly what ~~what~~ we are doing here instead of accepting as Gospel that which comes from the Chief of Staff...

MR. BENDER - Page 15929/30 - August 15, 1940

...Last week not a single fighting plane had been ordered because of the mountain

of rules and the endless red tape of official regulations...In all this preparedness talk, not one contract has been let for bombing, observation, or pursuit planes, in spite of the fact that all details of the entire program have been rushed by the War and Navy Departments on a night-and-day working schedule. Manufacturers of airplanes insist that New Deal restrictions are a major cause of confusion and delay in getting the program under way...Through the whole situation, there rises a pronounced political aroma. The administration at Washington is now considering the writing of plane contracts for delivery in 1945. If the amortization trouble is settled by new excess-profits legislation, the contracts could then be revised to call for faster delivery. Meanwhile, admittedly necessary production falls far behind because the New Deal refuses to acknowledge the possibility of error. ...I certainly do. The question has been raised regarding Mexico drafting men between the ages of 18 and 45. We have an entirely different situation here than they have. As I understand it, Mexico is a dictatorship. Ours is a democracy. Let us not create an emergency through any action we may take on this measure at this time.

MR. BENDER - Page 15994 - August 19, 1940

...The administration now moans about our lack of preparedness. New Dealers are responsible for unemployment, for unpreparedness, and for bankrupting the Nation

MR. BENDER AND MR. SCHAFER of Wisconsin - Page 17315 - September 3, 1940
Mr. Bender

...I am wondering if our passion to save European civilization we are not forgetting the United States of America...I call your attention to other conduct of the present President of the United States. Every action of his has indicated all the time he has been in public life that he considers himself greater than the law...Now you propose turning over a million men to him to play with like checkers on a checker-board...I have here an article which appeared in the Saturday Evening Post of July 13: "With no notice to the American people or to the Congress that is supposed to interpret their will, this country entered the war 4 days ago. Stranger than the fact was the passive acceptance of it." In the beginning Roosevelt sent over "obsolete" planes -- and if the planes were obsolete what in the world could the British do with them -- then he sent over "obsolete" guns, now he is sending "obsolete" warships, and pretty soon he will be sending "obsolete" men. Any device at all that suits the convenience of the President is used in order to get us into this war by the back door. I say that it is essential for us to take inventory and understand what is happening to us, and to tell the people of America what is happening to them -- that we are being taken into socialism by the back door and being taken into the World War by the back door.

Mr. Schafer ...Should the gentleman criticize our ex-international banker, New Deal Fuehrer Mr. Roosevelt, who unfortunately is afflicted with hallucinations and delusions of grandeur the same as Herr Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini which cause these four dictators to believe that they are capable persons in their nations, created by God to rule those nations with an iron hand, irrespective of the rights of men?

MR. BENDER: The gentleman answers his own question.

...The power of peacetime conscription, in the hands of an administration that has proved by its record to have utilized every conceivable excuse for regimenting America overturning all tradition and changing our form of government, is nothing but an invitation to disaster. If our country were at war, there would be no other alternative than to take this chance. But we are not at war.

MR. BENDER - Page 17360 - September 4, 1940

...This is a representative government and you ladies and gentlemen are elected to represent the people of this country and to enact laws and to preserve the Constitution of America, and I say again that the action of Roosevelt (transfer of destroyers) is in direct violation of the law. The President took the law into his own hands.

MR. BENDER - Page 17651 - September 6, 1940

...I suggest that when you consider a measure you must consider those who administer the measure. We now have a man in the White House to administer this measure who has proven his inability to administer other measures in connection with the defense of the Nation. Roosevelt has been President for almost 8 years...During that period he failed to inform the Congress of the condition of our defense...say it is essential that we look into the record and performance of the administration before we give it additional power in order to further violate the laws of the Congress of the United States..

MR. BENDER - Page 18237/38 - September 12, 1940

...The President was deeply concerned over leaving the White House because he required easy access by direct telephone to Europe and Asia. Hyde Park must be heavily wired, because the President has spend one-half of his time since July 19 right there. Every time a week-end rolls around that old yearning to go fishing apparently wins the day from the White House. The Republicans do not object to the President's recreation; but when he goes fishing in the troubled waters of international politics, we say it is time to stop kidding the public.

MR. BENDER - Page 19178/8 - September 28, 1940

...We do not pretend to be neutral. We call ourselves a non-belligerent, but with 50 American ships on the way to England, along with these planes and guns, we are heading straight for Europe. I know that our people hate everything that Hitler stands for, we despise dictatorship in any form, but I challenge anyone to tell us the difference between the Executive orders issued by Roosevelt and those issued by Hitler. We in America hate secret diplomacy, but every step in the negotiations between Great Britain and our Government is secret.

...Let me point out to you that it is 2 years almost to the hour of the Munich conference. You remember that week, the unholy week in modern history, the Munich conference, when the umbrella man from England was there along with the umbrella man from France, and the umbrella man from America was sticking his nose into the whole business and taking credit for the deal.

...We are paying premium prices now for defense mechanisms which, if Mr. Roosevelt had been on his toes and had made the request for a Congress that was his, if he had asked for the money, it would have most certainly been forthcoming. If he had let us in on what the picture was, or if he had known what the picture was, certainly we would have provided the money for him...We are in that economic whirlwind today because of the manner in which the whole system has been unbalanced by spending us into a condition where today no one knows what will happen next...They have had 8 years in which to perform, and in giving an account of their stewardship they can point to 10,000,000 people unemployed today. They can point to secret diplomacy and the lack of knowledge of international affairs.

MR. BENDER - Page 21337 - December 5, 1940

...All that we see leads us to believe that secrecy has replaced frankness in the normal relations between our own country and Great Britain. The return of

Ambassador Joseph Kennedy from London with his astonishing assertion that there is nothing for him to do there prompts the belief that our diplomatic relations with the British Empire are being conducted through channels other than the customary offices of our Ambassadors...

...What bothers the American people as they survey the situation before them is the obvious failure of our National Government to formulate a plan for building our own defenses. With magnificent grandiloquence we have named ourselves the protectors of the Western Hemisphere. We have told South and Central America that we are ready to stand guard over their sacred soils. To Canada we have sent commissioners who almost gaily pledged us to preserve the greatness of the British Empire in any contingency. No one can guess how far we have gone in exploring the possibilities of a British commonwealth centered at Ottawa. And all this goes on while our factories turn fragmentary portions of the rearmament equipment we need for ourselves. We permit ourselves to talk about aid to England in terms of 12,000 planes when we count our output in the three hundreds month after month. All this takes place while we permit the Nation's productive machinery to languish in uncertainty, not knowing how far it may be called upon to go, because no one knows.

MR. BENDER- Page 418 - January 29, 1941

...If the American people consent to lend themselves once more to a bloody nightmare, we are entitled to know precisely for what we are fighting. The emotional phrase is no longer sufficient to satisfy the American mind. And emotion has been largely the diet on which our Government has been feeding during these last hectic months. In all the discussion of aid to Britain which has taken place during the last year, our people have been proceeding without one of the most important elements necessary for an intelligent appraisal of our position. No nation can willingly and intelligently offer its assistance to any other nation without some knowledge of the purpose for which that help is ultimately to be used.

...Today there is talk of "all-out aid for Britain"; yet simultaneously there comes word that the British Government itself continues to maintain more than 200 5,000-ton British cargo ships along the sea lanes between Great Britain and South America seeking to make up for England's lost European trade. While England battles for her life, hostile news reports spread the rumor that English vessels are still trading with Spain and that their cargoes are being used to force new weapons for Nazi Europe with which to afflict the very English who produce them. None of this sounds like far and open diplomacy. All of it bears the questionable tang of economic warfare into which the people of the United States must be reluctant to enter.

MR. BENDER- Page 2615 - March 25, 1941

Mr. Chairman, I oppose the passage of this bill, because I believe the people of this country are entitled to know everything that happens. I oppose this bill because it involves an annual expenditure of \$1,500,000 which is totally unnecessary. This legislation is another illustration of the methods by which our Government is becoming a bureaucracy rather than a democracy...

MR. BENDER - Page A1712 - April 3, 1941

"I believe that we must not take the last step, the step which may precipitate our entrance into this war. I am fearful that convoys may prove to be one scene beyond the last act short of war. I am concerned lest such an act plunge us into the European

conflict. I for one do not propose that we shall sacrifice more American boys for the questionable gains of a bloody war."

MR. BENDER - Page 3671 - May 5, 1941
(Acquisition by U.S. of domestic and foreign ships)

"...Does not the gentleman feel we are substituting the rollers' code for international law by this bill?"

MR. BENDER - Page 3750 - May 6, 1941
(Utilization of Foreign Idle Tonnage)

"I had not intended saying anything about this bill until yesterday when our good friend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Cox) made the statement that this is not a peace measure, referring to this bill. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Cox) said, regarding this measure...

...For 8 years, while Hitler has been building the finest war machine in the world, the present administration has devoted most of its time and our resources in non-defense pursuits. A year ago in June, when we were woefully unprepared, the President at his press conference suggested Congress go home, as there was nothing to do...

...Before we talk big and act big, let us prepare so that we can properly defend ourselves and our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere.

MR. BENDER - Page 4102 - May 13, 1941

...The administration leadership calls this step naval patrols. The rest of the Nation uses another word, convoys...There is no need for them to soften the effects of convoys by calling them patrols. There is no need for this frantic campaign by Secretary of War Stimson, Secretary of the Navy, Knox, Secretary of State Hull to drum up enthusiasm for our entry into the war.

...Do the fathers and mothers of America want to send their boys into a second World War because 8 cargoes destined for England have not been delivered? I think the answer must be obvious; there is no need for convoys on the facts. Our goods are getting through to Britain...The Administration is determined to whip up war sentiment wherever it can...Today convoys are not necessary to achieve the purpose we have agreed to further.

MR. BENDER - Page 4560 - May 27, 1941

...Whittier tells of a tribe of Indians who, whenever the tribe went on a debauch, chose one man to stay sober. The tribe reasoned that when they were all out of their heads they would need the services of one sober man. So I think the world is going to need the services of one sober nation. I hope and pray that America may be the nation which stays sober in a reeling world, not for its own sake merely, but for the sake of civilization. Tonight the President of the United States will have the largest audience any man ever had in the history of the world when he makes his address.

...I pray to God that he will use this opportunity to spread the "four freedoms," not by making a belligerent speech and advocating this country's entrance into the war but will rather make a point of our staying out of war thereby bringing this conflict to an end and saving the lives, not only of millions of Americans but human beings everywhere throughout the world.

MR. BENDER - Page 6206 - July 15, 1941

"...I am not interested in having departments of the Government moved to Detroit, or to Denver, or to Chicago, or to Savannah, Ga., or to Los Angeles, or to any other

place; I am interested in moving them out the window. The sooner we begin moving them out the window the sooner we shall begin financing as we have to in our own homes and our own businesses unless we expect to feel the hand of the sheriff on our shoulder...

MR. BENDER - Page 6219 - July 15, 1941

"...Clarence Buddington Kelland, a prominent writer (and a prominent America Firster), recently wrote the following: 'Today we have no leadership. In Washington we see fear and vacillations. We see the hampering of political expediency. We see that theorists have at last come face to face with reality and do not know what to do about it. We see that they hesitate to step in any direction, that instead of showing the way to the people they sit hesitant and aghast waiting for the people to shove in one direction or in another...'

'...So, as a first guaranty, let this administration place our affairs in the hands of men who are worthy to handle those affairs. Let it remove and cast into oblivion those individuals whose gross caperings and intolerance and inefficiency and social scheming have brought our domestic affairs to their present dire pass. Give America back to Americans. Take it away from pets and parasites. Take it away from "yes" men and bunglers. Take it away from those whose sole desire is a perpetuation of their own political power. Give it back -- give back those powers -- to men whose sole thought shall be for the welfare of this land we love..'

...The closing of German consulates throughout the United States, the freezing of Axis assets, and the recent redeclaration of the traditional freedom of the seas by the President are drastic measures which must inevitably call public attention to the imminence of American intervention in the European war. The order expelling all Nazi diplomatic representatives from the country marks the first time in our history when foreign consulates have been ordered shut in time of peace. Its significance can scarcely be exaggerated.

Taken together with the White House's virtual rejection of the principles enunciated by Congress in the Neutrality Act and the representations entered into by our State Department and the German Government growing out of the sinking of the Robin Moor, the unprecedented diplomatic rebuff administered to Nazi Germany by our State Department must be viewed as a step of the utmost gravity.

Events at home no less than our conduct of negotiations with foreign governments point to a determined effort by the national administration to involve us in war...
...We are being maneuvered rapidly into a position in which there may be no possible alternatives to war. The American people living under a Republic have the right to demand a voice in the determination of this decision. War or peace, the men and women who will be called upon to do the fighting, sacrificing, and dying, should be consulted before the last irrevocable step is taken.

MR. BENDER - Page 6229 - July 16, 1941

...I have received, and I suppose all the Members in the last few days have received copies of the publication I hold in my hand, labeled "Citidals of Democracy."
...at a time when we face an emergency, at a time when the taxpayers are asked to give of their money wholesale, when we are asking the boys to go to the camps at \$21 per month, and yet the War Department itself is putting out a fancy booklet to serve no good purpose, or to serve no purpose at all except that of propaganda. They make the patient sugar-coat his own pills.

MR. BENDER - Page 6272 H - July 17, 1941

...The national administration is determined not on peace but on direct intervention.

MR. BENDER - Page 6449 - July 24, 1941

...Our draftees went to their camps with the expectation of serving 12 months. They anticipated membership in some force of reserve corps after this year of service had expired. They did not bargain for their own Government breaking faith with them. As for the new emergency, it is difficult to find justification for it. China is still holding out in the Far East...Only the militarists in America find more danger now than there was a year ago.

Excerpts from America in Danger

Bulletin # 258 - Page 1 - March 31, 1941

That only a few days' notice had been given (i.e. for a vote on H.R. 3368, a bill authorizing expenditures for the Office of Govt. Reports) and Repr. Bender maintained even then he was not told what was to be discussed by the committee. That even Congressman should have to get factual information from the many Govt. bureaus only it had cleared thru Mellett's censorship bureau....

Bulletin # 272 - Page 4 - July 7, 1941

Quotes Benders opposition to H. R. 4228 (i.e. the wire tapping bill) in Congr. Record of 6-30-41 and refers to him as "courageous Congr. Bender."

WRHS



HON. FRANCES P. BOLTON

Representative of Ohio
Excerpts from Congressional Record

The League for Human Rights
500 West Ninth Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio

1. September 4, 1940 -- Page 17394

"...My inability to go along with this bill is not because I do not see the need but because, try as I will, I cannot help see in it more danger than defense, more dictatorship than democracy... Dare we in what we still hopefull call peacetime risk these men in camps where medical facilities for care and hospitalization are still non-existent? Do your minds retain as mine does the memories of those camps in the last war after the flu hit - the bodies rolled in improvised winding sheets that had to serve also as coffins? That is in my memory -- as are the nurses who lived through the heart-breaking strain of epidemic, and, when the dramatic need for them was past, broke physically and even mentally, never to come back.

"...The methods used by this administration in all matters of national defense are so tied up with its steady march toward national socialism - you can call it dictatorship - that it is difficult for me to see how anyone who believes in the fundamental principles of American representative government can fail to see the implication of a peacetime draft bill.

"...Try as I will, I cannot convince myself that this bill for peacetime conscription of our men and Government-controlled use of our industry is a true defense measure. I cannot consider it anything less than a major step toward dictatorship which, under the conditions in the world today, could be used to implement the declaration of the President of not 'total defense' but 'total control.'"

2. February 3, 1941 -- Page 537

"...So make no mistake regarding my opposition to this bill. I am not opposing aid to England. I am opposing a bill which will not bring help to England in time - a bill whose real and hidden purpose in the enslavement of free Americans under a smokescreen of so-called defense...

"...To those of us who recognize the gravity of England's immediate situation, coupled with the knowledge of our own criminal lack of defense material and the

consequent need for time, the clouding of issues caused by this wholly unnecessary demand for dictatorial powers on the part of the administration is unforgivable..

"...Have you ever loaned anything to a friend without beclouding, if not destroying, that friendship? The very sound of the word makes enemies... I say to you that those who are forcing this bill upon us are risking the future not only of England but of this hemisphere, and they are putting in jeopardy the freedom of all the world.."

3. March 19, 1941 -- Page 2427

"...The passage of H.R. 1776 goes very hard with some of us who feel in all sincerity that the country is being led rapidly away from peace. I say to you members of the majority, that we will hold you responsible if there is war...

"...We who vote with you in this will do so because H.R. 1776, called by your leader this afternoon the 'lend-stand' bill, has become a law. But the responsibility lies with you. We have done all it is humanly possible to do to put limitations that would not obstruct the main issue but which would have protected our people from the unrestrained actions of those to whom power has been given. You have refused to acquiesce in any of these protective amendments. The full burden of the future rests upon you..."

4. May 29, 1941 -- Page 4686

"...American defense production is still lagging far behind Nazi Germany.

"...There is only one answer -- lack of planning. We plunged into this national-defense effort on a tremendous surge of emotion. Emotion is a great stimulant; but it is all too far from being a constructive agency. The great camps we built to house our selective-service draftees give conclusive proof of my charge. They were not planned...

"...Yet at the same time prominent public officials of a pronounced New Deal tinge have managed to get their relatives, including sons and nephews, deferred on the ground of some peculiar indispensability...

"...I believe that the people of this country should demand that the selective-service regulations of the Federal Government be administered fairly... The President of the United States has proclaimed an unlimited national emergency. I believe that this proclamation was designed to rouse the people of our country from the indifference with which millions still regard events abroad. I do not believe that this proclamation was necessary..."

5. February 24, 1942 -- Page A758

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"...This/February 21, - more than 2 months since that Sunday morning that changed our world.

"Before that fateful day some people were expending ourselves trying to hasten the moment when the United States would enter the combat area of this world-wide conflagration with little comprehension of the implications of such a step while we were so unprepared. Some of us were trying to hold the tide back until these implications might be understood by the country at large, until some real progress might be made in clearing the confusions and getting the production lines really moving..."

"...Those who know the Japanese people will tell you that when they realized that the policy of apparent friendliness on our part was to be suddenly revised, Mr. Hull's ultimatum might well have been the last step in their decision to attack. Granted that their ships were on their way when Kurusu took off, but remember that steps in diplomatic relations are seldom surprises. He played the part well. But were not we, too, playing for time?..."

* * * * *

Excerpt from Publicity

April 10, 1941 -- Page 1

"Congresswoman Frances Bolton - Speaker at Carnegie Hall, N. Y. Meeting of 'Women United' against involvement in wars of Europe and Asia."

Excerpt from News Letter

April 30, 1941 -- Page 5 -- No. 143

"That authoritative air, inherent in reprints from the Congressional Record, is exploited in the dissemination of remarks of Congresswoman Frances P. Bolton of Ohio. In a very short time, her leaflet*(illustration on page 6) became the standard ammunition of the obstructionists and currently may be found in the pocket of almost every United States Nazi."

* * * * *

CITY REPORTER -- Vol. 3 -- No. 25

Besides Fish's material, Hudson has mailed out, under Congressional frank, of course, the works of Senators Wheeler and Clark and of Representatives Oliver and Bolton.



* Quote No. 3 is an excerpt from this leaflet which was entitled, "You Of The Majority - You Have Promised Peace, Do You Keep Your Word".

FRANCES BOLTON

Representative from Ohio

Mrs. Bolton's voting record on war and defense issues is very bad. She voted against the fortification of Guam and the military airplane appropriation in 1939, against the draft in 1940, against lend-lease, draft extension, arming of merchant ships, ship seizure and lifting of belligerent zones in 1941. She did vote for the second lend-lease bill in 1941 and, reluctantly for the lend-lease appropriation.

Mrs. Bolton followed the usual line of calling all defense measures steps towards dictatorship. "The methods used by this administration in all matters of national defense are tied up with its steady march toward national socialism -- you can call it dictatorship" and soon. (See quote No. 1 at the end of this report.)

The lend-lease bill was called "a bill whose hidden purpose is the enslavement of free Americans." (Quote No. 2)

Mrs. Bolton is an expert at confusing the issues. When conscription was being discussed she went off into a description of the 'flu epidemic of the last war and the heart-breaking strain on the army nurses. During the debate on lend-lease she became alarmed lest we should lose England's friendship by lending her material. "Have you ever loaned anything to a friend without beclouding, if not destroying that friendship? The very sound of the word makes enemies." In her Memorial Day speech in Congress (May 29, 1941) she said that "the people of this country should demand that the selective-service regulations of the Federal Government be administered fairly." (Quote No. 4). The fairness of the selective-service boards is one of the outstanding features of the whole conscription set-up. Mrs. Bolton does not actually say that anything is wrong, but her "demand" that the boards should be fair is designed to raise doubts in the minds of her hearers.

In this same Memorial Day speech, Frances Bolton went at length through the rigamarole of "This is a Republic and not a democracy" that is the standby of all the fascists from Jacob Thorakelson to Cathrine Curtis and Stephen A. Day.

"I ask you to read our history. In it you will find no mention of democracy. Among the founding fathers and the early people of this country the word was unknown. You will find Jefferson constantly referring to the Republic and the republican form of government. I ask you to read world history, and you will find that no democracy as such has ever survived."

This statement, that the word, "democracy" was unknown to the early people of this country, is untrue. A recent book, "Paul Revere" by Esther Forbes, gives an account of the visit to America by Colonel Miranda of Venezuela during Revolutionary times. The Colonel wrote an account of his conversations with Samuel Adams in which he spoke of democracy being based on the virtues of the citizens. This contemporary account shows that the word "democracy" was used in those times and with the same connotation that it has today.

On Feb. 21, 1942, Mrs. Bolton made an address at the City Club Forum of Cleveland. This was an appeal for national unity, for forgetting the past, especially the most recent past, "Would we gain anything if we spent the time arguing over what Congress has done or has not done these past 2 or 10 years."

Mrs. Bolton continues (See quote No. 5) by saying that "some of us" were trying to get into the war without understanding what it was all about. Others (meaning the isolationists) were trying to hold back until the country was ready. This argument would be more convincing if the isolationists had shown any evidence at all of understanding what the war was all about, and if they had not tried with all their might to keep us from being prepared. Mrs. Bolton, herself, as we have seen voted against fortifying Guam, against the military airplane appropriation of 1939, against conscription, and against lend-lease.

Mrs. Bolton then delivers herself of a little masterpiece of confusion. "Those who know the Japanese people will tell you when they realized that the policy of apparent friendliness on our part was to be suddenly revised, Mr. Hull's ultimatum might well have been the last step in their decision to attack."

This is, of course, the same old story that we all have heard so often; i.e., the Administration got us into the war. It comes over the short wave all the time from Berlin, Rome and Tokyo. Mrs. Bolton introduces a slight variation however, according to her it was Mr. Hull and not Mr. Roosevelt who forced the amiable and peaceful Japanese to attack us. She speaks of our "policy of apparent friendliness", (in other words, our policy of hypocrisy), but does not think fit to mention the "policy of apparent friendliness" of Mr. Kurusu who kept up the pretence of negotiating until the bombs fell on Pearl Harbor.

"Granted," she says in a judicial manner, "that their ships were on the way when Kurusu took off" but perhaps Japan knew that Mr. Hull was going to deliver an ultimatum.

The net result of all this, leaving out the double talk, is that Mrs. Bolton is conveying the idea that our State Department deceitfully led the Japanese into phony negotiations which the clever little yellow men saw through in time.

This is a free country and Mrs. Bolton is entitled to her opinions, but it is hardly the time now to elect Japanese apologists to Congress.

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Remarks of Hon. Frances P. Bolton
of Ohio -- In the House of
Representatives

YOU OF THE MAJORITY -- YOU HAVE PROMISED PEACE DO YOU KEEP YOUR WORD

MRS. BOLTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak for the Mundt amendment to the Seven Billion Dollar lend-lease appropriation bill. This amendment bars the use of any part of this Seven Billion Dollars for the repair of belligerent vessels in our harbors. I support the amendment for two reasons:

I hold the reputation and honor my country very high. It seems to me this bill puts us into grave danger of breaking faith with the whole Western Hemisphere. Our agreement with the southern republics should prevent our permitting the repair of belligerent ships in our harbors.

Without this amendment shall we not be breaking this agreement, or has the State Department clarified the matter with our neighbors on the south?

I know quite well from my experience on the Committee on Foreign Affairs during the consideration of H.R. 1776 how impossible it is to make any impression upon the minds of the majority.

I recognize that the passage of this measure is inevitable and that it will probably be passed, as the gentleman from Virginia has said, "without amendment." But I want to speak in behalf of this amendment which would help us keep faith with the New World.

When a measure becomes law in our Republic, we have considered ourselves obligated to uphold the law. The passage of H.R. 1776 goes very hard with some of us who feel in all sincerity that the country is being led rapidly away from peace.

I say to you members of the majority, that we will hold you responsible if there is war. You have said all along that this is all for peace. Then keep us at peace. The mothers of the United States, yes, all the women of this country, expect that of you and will hold you, and the Chief Executive you represent, wholly responsible.

Those of us who are on the minority side, who have fought as hard as we know how to keep this country out of war, expect you to keep your word.

All the people who voted for you have the right to expect that of you. So if you do not keep faith it will be a sorry world.

If we have gone so far along the way of war behind a smoke screen of your promises that there is no return possible, then it is indeed tragedy.

We who vote with you in this will do so because H.R. 1776, called by your leader this afternoon the "lend-spend" bill, has become a law. But the responsibility lies with you.

We have done all it is humanly possible to do to put limitations that would not obstruct the main issue but which would have protected our people from the unrestrained actions of those to whom power has been given.

You have refused to acquiesce in any of these protective amendments. The full burden of the future rests upon you.

I ask you again, What are you going to do with it? I ask you also, What is America to you? What are you making of America in its relation to the world? What kind of a world are you building?

You of the majority party, you who are responsible -- is it to be war or peace? You have promised peace. **Do you keep your word?**

