

# America's Homegrown Fascism

By George Seldes, foreign correspondent during WWI and WWII, media critic and author. (See back cover.)

The U.S. Office of War Information (OWI) published millions of words, thousands of pamphlets and posters to inspire people and raise the morale of the soldiers of production and the soldiers of the field. But, the OWI did not publish a single pamphlet, poster or paper telling either the civilian population or the men and women in uniform what Fascism really is, what the forces are behind the political and military movements generally known as Fascism, who puts up the money, who make the tremendous profits which Fascism has paid its backers in Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain and other nations.

When it comes to relating foreign Fascism with native American Fascism there is a conspiracy of silence in which the OWI, the American press and all the forces of reaction in America are united.

Outside of a few books, a few pamphlets and articles in the very small independent weekly press, not one word on this subject has been printed, or heard over any of the big commercial radio stations.

Faraway Fascism has been attacked, exposed and denounced by the same publications which for years ran articles lauding Mussolini and his notable backers. The Hearst newspapers, which published from 1934 to Pearl Harbor dozens of signed propaganda articles by Dr. Goebbels, Goering and other Nazis, now call them names, but no publication which takes money

from certain Big Business elements will dare name the native or nearby Fascists. In many instances, the publications themselves are part of our own Fascism.

The real Fascists of America are never named in the commercial press. It will not even hint that there are many powerful elements working against a greater democracy, against an America without discrimination based on race, color and creed, an America where never again will one third of the people be without sufficient food, clothing and shelter, where never again will there be 12 million unemployed and many more working for semi-starvation wages while the du Pont, Ford, Hearst, Mellon and Rockefeller Empires move into the billions of dollars.

I call these elements Fascist. You may not like names and labels but technically as well as journalistically and morally they are correct. You may substitute whatever name you like for the flag-waving, anti-American Americans whose efforts and objectives parallel those of the Liga Industriale which bought out Mussolini in 1920, and the Thyssen-Krupp-Voegeler-Flick Rhineland industry and banking system which subsidized Hitler when Nazism was

about to collapse. Their main object was to end the civil liberties of the nation, destroy the labor unions, end the free press, and make more money at the expense of a slave nation. Both succeeded. In America, they have already:

- (1) Organized big business in a movement against labor.
- (2) Founded the American Liberty League to fight civil liberties.
- (3) Subsidized anti-labor, Fascist and anti-Semitic groups.
- (4) Signed a pact with Nazi agents for political and economic (cartel) penetration of U.S.
- (5) Founded a \$1,000,000-a-year propaganda outfit to corrupt the press, radio, schools and churches.
- (6) Stopped the passage of food, drug and other laws aimed to safeguard the consumer.
- (7) Conspired, with du Pont as leader, in September 1942, to sabotage the war effort in order to maintain profits.
- (8) Sabotage the U.S. defense plan in 1940 by refusing to

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convert auto plants and by a sit-down of capital against plant expansion; sabotage the oil, aluminum and rubber expansion

programs. (If these facts are not known to you it is because 99% of our press, in the pay of the same elements, suppressed the information.)

(9) Delayed the winning of the war through the acts of dollar-a-year [executives] looking out for present profits and future monopoly rather than the quick defeat of Fascism.

Naturally enough the U.S. president and other high officials cannot name these men, organizations, lobbyists and national associations; they can only refer to "noisy traitors," Quislings, defeatists, Tories or Economic Royalists. Our press will never name them because the same elements that made the above 9-point record are their main advertisers and biggest subsidizers. Even the general charges by the President himself have been suppressed. In Germany and Italy, until the Fascist seizure of government, most newspapers were brave enough to be anti-Fascist, whereas in America a large part of the press (Hearst, Scripps-Howard, McCormick-Patterson) has for years been pro-Fascist and almost all big papers live on the money of the biggest Tory and reactionary corporations and reflect their viewpoint now.

On the anti-Fascist side, there is not one publication that boasts more than one or two hundred thousand circulation, whereas the reactionary press has its *New York News* with 2 million daily, its *Saturday Evening Post* with 3 million weekly and its *Reader's Digest* with 9 million monthly.

It is a shameful and tragic that in America, where 50 million read anti-labor and anti-liberal propaganda, only a few hundred thousand read intelligent, honest, un bribed, uncorrupted publications, issued in the public interest.

Source: Excerpts from *Facts and Fascism*, 1943.



Adolph Hitler, March 1935



Benito Mussolini, Aug. 1923