

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

May 29, 1939

EAT:HA

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

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2
I reviewed with [] the activities of Fritz Kuhn and existing Federal Statutes and it is the opinion of [] that the activities of Kuhn do not constitute a violation of any Federal Statute. You will recall that we have been endeavoring to ascertain whether Kuhn has a criminal record in Munich, Germany in the belief that possibly the existence of such a record might form the basis for prosecution for perjury in connection with his naturalization papers. I today contacted [] of the State Department and he stated that within the past few days the State Department had received a message from the American representative in Germany that the German Government had informed the American representative that arrangements would be made to turn over any data which was available. [] expressed the belief that the German Government would report that no data was available but a further communication is expected by the State Department as soon as the German Government makes some definite statement as to the existence or nonexistence of the record. I asked [] to press this matter closely in order that we might be advised at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

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&
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUN 6 1939	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:COH

May 29, 1939

Time: 3:30 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: FRITZ KUHN

While talking to [redacted] at New York, he read the following memorandum prepared by [redacted] about which there possibly might be some publicity:

"On May 29, 1939, [redacted]

[redacted] came into the office and stated he wished to discuss Fritz Kuhn with me for a moment. He is writing a story [redacted] with respect to the activities of Kuhn. He also advised he had information to the effect that about two years ago Kuhn violated the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act in that he is alleged to have taken from Detroit, Michigan, an automobile owned by the Bund. He took this from Detroit to the West Coast and some where in California the car allegedly mysteriously disappeared from the possession of Kuhn.

It appears from the information in the possession of [redacted] that Kuhn borrowed the car for the purpose of taking a trip to San Francisco, Los Angeles and Seattle. Kuhn on this trip is supposed to have become acquainted with a woman by the name of Florence Camp, a blonde grass widow of a once rich California oil operator. Kuhn returned without the car. He is supposed to have made the statement that he had a very narrow escape some place in California with it. When he was driving on some mountain road, the steering gear got out of order and the car plunged 600 feet over a precipice. There were, however, no scars on Kuhn and there was no report or record made of such an accident in California or the State of Washington. b7C

RECORDED & INDEXED

[redacted] stated that no charges were preferred in Michigan against Kuhn to his knowledge. [redacted] stated he was submitting the information with respect to the alleged violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act to this Office for such action as we desire to take. It was obvious however that [redacted] desired to be in position to say in the preparation of his story that he had consulted representatives of the FBI concerning the Federal law violation on

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R 95 MAY 17 1961

MEMO FOR THE FILE

5-29-39

the part of Kuhn. I told [] that the Bureau is pleased to receive any information that he or any one else had relative to a violation of the law within our jurisdiction and whether or not prosecutive action would be initiated is within the province of the appropriate U. S. Attorney.

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[] the blonde woman who appeared in Kuhn's life on the West Coast is alleged to be identical with the woman whose picture was snapped with Kuhn at the World Fair in New York City a few days ago.

[] also told me that [] is supposed to know an individual in New York City who furnished the information concerning this violation on the part of Kuhn but this individual does not speak English and apparently is German."

I advised [] that we would have to check this out immediately; that the [] would have to be contacted to find out the source of his information and should it be necessary he should secure the services of an interpreter. In the event there are any leads at other offices, the same are to be telephoned so that this might be traced immediately.


E. A. TAMM

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

May 29, 1939

KRM:AR

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Re: Fritz Kuhn - Naturalization
Matter

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Fritz Kuhn was born in Munich, Germany, on May 15, 1896. He migrated to Mexico in 1924. He arrived in Laredo, Texas, U. S. A., on May 19, 1928. He is married to Elsa Kuhn, which marriage was effected in Munich, Germany, on May 28, 1923. There are two children of this union. Kuhn became a naturalized American citizen on December 3, 1934, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He is now the head of the German-American Bund, having been elected to that position on December 1, 1937. During the World War he was a Lieutenant in a Machine Gun Detachment of the German Army. He became a Doctor of Chemistry in 1922, and after coming to the United States was employed, for a time with the Ford Motor Company as a Chemist. He was discharged from this position with no reason given. After becoming head of the Bund, the German Government issued an order that German Nationals in the United States could not be members of the Bund or its Prospective Citizens League. Kuhn, as leader, disregarded this order, and refused, for a time, to ask German Citizens to resign their membership. On occasions, during Inner Council meetings of the Bund, Kuhn boasted of receiving secret orders from the German Secret Police, his apparent purpose being to lend an air of mystery to his undertakings. Just before the National elections of 1936, Kuhn directed a telegram to [redacted] of Berlin, asking instructions as to whether the Bund was to vote for Lemke or Landon. The reply he received was to the effect that German officials were not interested in the elections in the U. S.

② The German-American Bund had its origin first in the "Teutonia" Society, formed on October 12, 1924. This grew into the League of the Friends of the New Germany, founded on June 30, 1933. The Bund itself

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 14 1939 A.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

May 29, 1939

was actually founded on June 3, 1936, and has its headquarters at 178 East 85th Street, New York City. ②

ATTEMPTED DENATURALIZATION OF FRITZ KUHN

① In August 1937, Julius Hochfelder, then of 150 Court Street, Brooklyn, New York, submitted to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, 15 bound files containing newspaper articles and matters of a related nature, together with what he termed "Factual Findings" and "Legal Reasons" for the support of his contentions that Kuhn's citizenship should be revoked. This material was reviewed by the Legal Branch of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, which Branch found that most of the material submitted was irrelevant, but did make some suggestions for investigation based upon material submitted by Hochfelder. ① The New York Division of the Immigration and Naturalization Service was thereupon requested by its headquarters in Washington to make a thorough investigation along certain suggested lines. No investigation, however, was undertaken. ② Hochfelder, however, brought action in the court of Federal Judge John W. Chaney, New York City, who heard arguments on October 29, 1937, and the matter was dismissed by the court.

The points urged by Hochfelder were briefly:

1. That Kuhn is an intimate friend of Hitler, and an ex-machine gunner in the German Army.
2. That Kuhn came to the United States to strengthen the Nazi program, and to work in the interests of a greater Germany.
3. That Kuhn heads the German-American Bund to represent Hitler in America.
4. That many local leaders of the Bund were displeasing to this Government, and were recalled by Hitler, and actually left.

5. That Hans Spanknoebel came here from Germany and acted as an Espionage Agent without the knowledge of this government.
6. That Spanknoebel fled after indictment to Germany.
7. That Kuhn is the successor of Spanknoebel.
8. That Kuhn is the Editor of Der Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter, official organ of the German American Bund.
9. That this paper prints material from Germany which is not only un-American, but insulting to certain officials of the American government.
10. That Kuhn came here for the purpose of serving Germany and in pursuance thereof has enlisted native and naturalized Americans and aliens for military service in Germany.
11. That Kuhn invited "Young German Men" to enlist in a Regiment of the National Guard of the State of New York, which service would be in lieu of service in Germany.
12. That Kuhn dresses in the uniform of an officer of the German Army.
13. That Kuhn invites Germans and Americans to join his Bund for the purpose of undermining our Constitution, and to propagate Nazi ideas.
14. That Kuhn has collected moneys in America which he has delivered to Hitler for the German Army and Relief Fund.
15. That in August 1936, Kuhn and other members of the Bund paraded for Hitler in Hanover, Germany, and that Kuhn not only was dressed in the uniform of an officer of the German Army, but took some form

May 29, 1939

of an oath to support Germany.

16. That Kuhn received more than 80,000 enlistment papers to be signed by members of the Bund for military and labor service in Germany.
17. That Kuhn supervised the execution of the enlistment papers.
18. That one of these enlistment papers is in the possession of the former McCormack-Dickstein Committee.
19. That one copy of the enlistment paper is filed with Henry B. Hazard, Assistant to the Acting Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization.
20. That Kuhn and the Bund maintain camps where military drill is taught, where allegiance to Hitler is sworn and where training in weapons is given.
21. That since the Bund is not chartered by law to engage in such military activities, it is acting unlawfully.
22. Not included in Hochfelder's Brief.
23. That Kuhn has conferred with members of the German Embassy re the operation and purpose of the Bund.
24. That for the above reasons Kuhn obtained his naturalization by fraud. (2)

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The files of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization also contained data bearing upon efforts of the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League, [redacted] to cancel the citizenship of Kuhn. The "facts" submitted by this organization constituted a file of clippings from the "Chicago Times". A reliable representative of the "Times" advised the

May 29, 1939

Bureau of Immigration that "nothing which had come to the attention of the Times investigators really amounted to definite evidence on which Fritz Kuhn's naturalization might be canceled".

① Reinhold ~~K~~Spitz, a former resident of Munich, Germany, known to Fritz Kuhn practically all of the latter's life, has deposed that he conducted a clothing business in Munich, Germany; that while Kuhn was attending the University at Munich and while Kuhn was about 24 or 25 years of age, the latter stole goods, merchandise and wares at the University, and being convicted thereof, was sentenced to serve four months in prison; that after Kuhn was released from prison, the father of Kuhn prevailed upon Spitz to employ Kuhn to rehabilitate him in society; that Spitz did give Kuhn employment; that within eight weeks of this employment Spitz found Kuhn had stolen wares and merchandise valued at about 3,000 marks; that upon the pleadings of Kuhn's father, Spitz did not prosecute charges, but enabled Kuhn to flee to Mexico.— *added info in para (21) here*

Among the requirements for naturalization is the renouncing and abjuring of all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, and proof of the attachment to the principles of the United States. A showing that at the time he was naturalized the applicant did not in good faith renounce or abjure his foreign allegiance, or was not sincerely attached to the principles of the Constitution, is sufficient to justify a revocation of the naturalization. Moreover, proof of subsequent statements or acts may be sufficient ground on which to base such a conclusion.

On the other hand, the decisions of the courts seem to indicate that proof of that character must be clear and convincing, since naturalization may not be revoked on evidence of an ambiguous or nebulous nature.

① *possible* Kuhn's insincerity in obtaining his American citizenship may be measured by the fact that he devotes his entire time to the work of the Bund, among whose principles are:

Vigorous anti-Semitism; attack upon the Anti-Nazi boycott of German Goods entering America; adoption of the Nazi slogan, "The Common Good before Private Gain";

May 29, 1939

"Defense of Aryan Culture"; "...to build a great American Movement of Liberation under the Swastika, the Common Symbol of the Defenders of Aryan Nationalism..."; "...to combat all atrocity and boycott propaganda, base defamation, distortion of news, malicious lies..."; "to defend our Right to cherish the German Language and German Customs and our Right and Duty to defend the good name of all things German"; "American-Germans are strongly under the long distance influence of the German Reich..."; "Youth Groups of the American-German League are a real accomplishment for Germanism"; "The idea must be recognized: maintenance of racial Germanism (in America) at any price"; "The mission which our Camp has to fulfill is a holy one just as every service in the interest of our German racial idea is a holy and noble one. We, the living generation who have called into life this enterprise, consecrate this work to the service of the German racial idea in America."; in speaking of Camps the Bund declared, "It is there where they (youth) shall be strengthened and confirmed in national socialism so that they will be conscious of the role which has been assigned to them as the future carriers of German racial ideas in America. Hereby we give you (Camp Nordland) to your holy mission. b7C We consecrate you as a little piece of German soil in America, as a sample of our motto: 'Obligated to America, tied to Germany'"; "And thus the German human being is and remains our racial comrade regardless of citizenship papers which he may own in any country"; the August 18, 1938, issue of the Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter, official organ of the German-American Bund carried the following - "One Folkdom, one Bund, one Fuehrer".

add Serial 1331

Respectfully,



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

NWK. FILE NO. **74-8** glp

REPORT MADE AT NEWARK, NEW JERSEY	DATE WHEN MADE 6/1/39	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/23, 29/39	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE FRITZ KUHN			CHARACTER OF CASE PERJURY; IMMIGRATION; NATURALIZATION.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Princeton, N.J. unable to furnish information regarding Subject's career in Germany.
 at present in New York City.

- R. U. C. -

DECLASSIFIED BY **DO1AG/TC**
ON **8/18/89**

REFERENCE: Letter from New York Office dated May 18, 1939, **290397**

DETAILS: AT PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY.

b7C

were interviewed at their residence, Princeton, New Jersey, and upon being questioned concerning matters contained in the reference letter, advised that they possessed no information regarding the Subject's career and antecedents in Germany. advised that was in New York City but might come to Princeton, New Jersey on either Saturday, May 27th or Monday, May 29th, 1939, for the Holiday.

On May 29, 1939 Agent telephonically contacted the residence in Princeton, New Jersey from the Resident Agent's Office in Trenton, New Jersey to ascertain if had come to Princeton, and it was determined that she was still in New York City, and was at present residing at the

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>R. P. Kitchin, Jr.</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES DESTROYED 95 MAY 17 1961 COPIES OF THIS REPORT ⑤ - Bureau 3 - New York 2 - Newark		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">61 7594 23</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">JUN 2 - P.M.</div> <div style="font-size: 0.8em;">ONE BURBO</div>
		JUN 16 1939

74-8

A search of the New York Telephone Directory reflected that this [REDACTED]

UNDEVELOPED LEAD

b7C

NEW YORK OFFICE.

At the [REDACTED] New York City, will endeavor to locate and interview [REDACTED] along the lines suggested in the letter of reference.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

KUHN'S ARREST CLIMAX OF BUND'S HECTIC LIFE

American Imitation of German Nazi Party Has Failed to Pick Up Many Members in Three Years' Effort

By HUGH O'CONNOR

With the arrest of Fritz Kuhn on charges of embezzlement, the German-American Bund has been brought again into the national limelight. For three years Kuhn has been head and front of the organization. Now he is to be tried on the charge of having taken \$14,548 of the society's funds.

After the first year of his leadership, the annual meeting of the bund, in July, 1937, accepted his judgment that his conduct of its affairs during the previous year warranted his election for four more years instead of annually. He explained then that he wanted to be assured of enough time to build up an organization based on the principles of Hitler in Germany but adapted here to the use of Americans of German origin.

As to the strength of his organization, Kuhn officially claimed a membership of 8,299 in the report which the Department of Justice turned over to the Dies Committee two months ago. The Department found, however, that the claims of the local bund leaders added up only to 6,617 for the nation. Of these, Kuhn put 5,324 in the metropolitan district of New York. The Department of Justice made the figure 4,529.

Leadership Explained

The "leader principle" under which Kuhn dominates the bund was explained by him a year ago in sworn testimony before the New

York State legislative inquiry headed by Senator John J. McNaboe. He said that he leads his German-Americans in all things—in their ninety-four local organizations in the principal cities of the country, in twenty-two camps where children pay for Summer vacations and are joined by their parents for week-end picnics.

He publishes and edits their four small weekly newspapers, each with a circulation found by the Department of Justice to be 2,000 copies at 5 cents each. He collects their dues of 75 cents a month, and admissions to meetings, usually 40 cents and up. Membership pins cost 25 cents. He banks the organization funds from these various sources of income. For all this, Kuhn told Senator McNaboe, he takes only \$3,000 a year, although it is a full-time job to lead the German-American Bund.

Herlands' Report

Commissioner William B. Herlands, who attempted to investigate the bund's payment of sales taxes in this city, reported to Mayor La Guardia last month that Kuhn, apparently had never rendered any financial accounting to the bund members.

At the McNaboe hearing Kuhn expounded the principles and aims of his group. He hoped, he said, "to build an Aryan movement under the swastika to liberate America from the Jews."

Until 1936 the bund had been

known as the Friends of the New Germany, under the national leadership of Heinz Spanknoebel and Fritz Gissibl, both veterans of Hitler's unsuccessful 1923 reach for power in Germany.

These two Hitler apostles in turn had attempted unsuccessfully to take control of the old-line German organizations in the United States, after Hitler finally took over the government in Germany in 1933. Gissibl, who was the last leader of the Friends in 1935, gave up the attempt and declared that thereafter the Friends would proceed alone to follow the new German model.

The bitterness of the struggle meanwhile caused diplomatic embarrassment in Berlin and led the German Government to prohibit membership in the Friends among German nationals in America, effective Jan. 1, 1936.

New Name and Uniform

Thereupon Kuhn, who had been Detroit sub-leader since the organization of the Friends, succeeded to the national leadership and immediately declared its task had shifted. It was no longer to explain Germany to America, he said, but to lead America to the German principles—a position to be known as Americanism, not Nazism.

Kuhn's first step in this direction was to change the Friends of the New Germany to the German-American Bund in April, 1936. The next change was in uniforms. In March, 1937, the bund dropped the black breeches and riding boots of the Nazi elite guards and adopted a uniform which Kuhn declared to be modeled on that of the American Legion. Thereupon, Kuhn announced the bund was cooperating with 125 other American organizations against communism and the Jews. In the following July Kuhn was re-elected leader for four years.

In March, 1938, Berlin formally proscribed the bund as it had its predecessor, the Friends. In April Kuhn announced that the German national flag would no longer be displayed at all bund meetings, but only on national holidays of the

Fatherland. At all other meetings only the American flag and the bund flag would appear. The bund flag carries the swastika, according to James Wheeler-Hill, national secretary of the bund, "as the sign of Aryan supremacy."

In September, 1938, the German title of the official bund newspaper, *Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter*, was supplemented with an English title "The Free American." The bund at the same time substituted a song of its American aspirations in English for the previously used Nazi anthem in German, the Horst Wessel Lied.

Two Celebrities

This brings the record down to the meeting last February, when the bund hired Madison Square Garden for the much-policed celebration of Washington's birthday with an "Americanism" meeting. The audience numbered 19,000, more than twice the total membership of the bund in the entire United States. A month later, however, when the bund wished to celebrate Hitler's birthday, the audience failed to fill Ebling's Casino in the Bronx.

Outside the bund, however, Kuhn's shift to Americanism has failed to make headway among German-Americans. He still has no more members than Spanknoebel and Gissibl left in 1935. In explanation, his advisers suggested that the official proscription of the bund by the German Government had hurt its prestige here. Consequently another change of name was proposed for the movement.

The bund was to remain the spearhead of Kuhn's militants. And for those who did not like the bund or its history, Kuhn's New Jersey lieutenant incorporated a German-American Front, to support the American Constitution and "to avoid useless and ignoble propaganda."

CLIPPING FORM
NEW YORK TIMES
JUN 5 - 1939

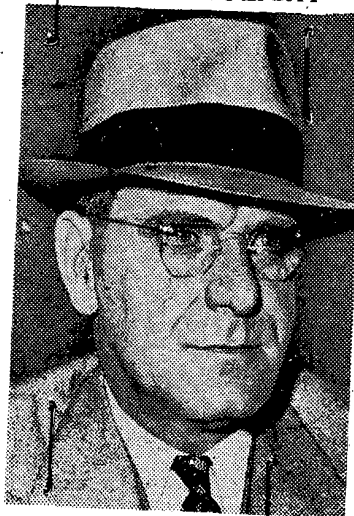
DATE.
FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

"WHAT KIND OF AN AMERICAN?"



Fitzpatrick in The St. Louis Post-Dispatch
A St. Louis cartoon inspired by Bund activities—Carl Schurz was a
German-American editor, Union soldier and Cabinet officer.

UNDER SPOTLIGHT



Times Wide World
Bund leader Fritz Kuhn.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

JEL:LL

Washington, D. C.

May 31, 1939

11:00 A. M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Re: FRITZ KUHN
NATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT ACT

In accordance with your instructions, I called [redacted] b7C at New York City regarding the recent developments concerning the allegations of a violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act by Fritz Kuhn. [redacted] referred me to Agent [redacted] who he indicated was familiar with the more recent developments.

Agent [redacted] related that the New York Daily Mirror had a story regarding this automobile episode under the by-name of Mefford. [redacted] stated that he knew nothing concerning this individual, but that [redacted] who obtained the information relative to the indication of the violation of the NMVTA, had been interviewed. Agent [redacted] related that [redacted] obtained this information from a man in New York who had received letters from a woman in Detroit. The woman, according to Agent [redacted] is supposed to be intimately acquainted with Fritz Kuhn. [redacted] at the time of the interview, would not disclose the name of the man in New York who received the letters, but he advised Agent [redacted] that he would contact this man and endeavor to have him disclose this information to the Bureau.

Agent [redacted] advised that the Bureau's informant, upon looking at the story in the Mirror, which consists of a facsimile of a letter and also the translation, stated the translation is poor and that he is inclined to believe these letters are "phony."

I told Agent [redacted] you were very desirous that the allegations concerning this possible violation of the NMVTA be very carefully run out by all auxiliary offices and that you had instructed that all leads should be telephonically communicated to the auxiliary offices with the request that these leads receive expeditious attention. Agent [redacted] informed that as soon as anything definite was established, he would telephonically contact those offices in which investigation was necessary.

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Respectfully,

b7C

[redacted]

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MAILED 1939

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

Mr. Tolson.....
Mr. Nathan.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg.....
Mr. Coffey.....
Mr. Egan.....
Mr. Glavin.....
Mr. Crowl.....
Mr. Harbo.....
Mr. Lester.....
Mr. Lawler.....
Mr. Nichols.....
Mr. Rosen.....
Mr. Sears.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Tracy.....
Miss Gandy.....

GJS:RA
61-520
Bu. file 61-7560

June 19, 1939

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

b7C

RE: NAZI ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA

Dear Sir:

In view of the very rapid and sensational develop-
ment which have occurred recently involving the German-American
Bund and FRITZ KUHN, its leader, there are submitted herewith
the following described newspaper clippings:

Clipping from the NEW YORK TIMES, dated May 9, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, dated May 11, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK TIMES, dated May 23, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR, dated May 25, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, dated
May 25, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, dated
May 26, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK TIMES, dated May 26, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK SUN, dated May 26, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR, dated May 27, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, dated
May 27, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK TIMES, dated May 27, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL-AMERICAN,
dated May 27, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL-AMERICAN,
undated.
Clipping from the NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR, dated May 28, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, dated
May 28, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, dated May 29, 1939.
Clipping from the BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE, dated May 29, 1939.

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61-7594-28X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUL 12 1939

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Letter to the Director
61-520

June 19, 1939

Clipping from the NEW YORK POST, dated May 29, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR, dated May 31, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, dated June 3, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK TIMES, dated June 3, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, dated
June 3, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, dated June 6, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK SUN, dated June 5, 1939.
Clipping from the NEW YORK TIMES, dated June 5, 1939.

The story as reported in the newspaper articles indicates that United States Attorney JOHN T. CAHILL, Southern District of New York received a complaint from REINHOLD SPITZ of 475 Central Park West alleging that KUHN had a criminal record in Germany and consequently violated the law when he obtained admission to this country and lied when he applied for his citizenship papers. This information appears to have been disclosed to the press through a Press Release from the Non-Secretarian Anti-Nazi League to Champion Human Rights, 20 West 47th Street, New York City. Former Magistrate JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN is stated to have admitted that he represented REINHOLD SPITZ at this time.

On May 11, 1939, the DAILY NEWS published a photograph of KUHN in company with an unknown blond with the statement that this photograph was made on May 3, 1939 at the New York World's Fair at which time KUHN had allegedly claimed that he was in California. The controversy over the date arose out of a charge made by KUHN to the effect that a police squad from the office of New York County District Attorney THOMAS E. DEWEY had broken into his office at 187 East 85th Street, New York City, without proper authority and had taken valuable papers and \$1,380 in cash. KUHN'S statements as to being in California on Saturday, May 3, 1939, arose seemingly from his desire to explain away the failure to report the alleged loss of papers and money sooner. When he was confronted with the picture, he, according to the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, changed his story and admitted that he was at the World's Fair at the time. He was also quoted as stating that the woman in question would become his mate as soon as certain legal actions were ended.

Letter to Director
61-520

June 19, 1939

On May 22, 1939, KUHN and [redacted] appeared under subpoena at the office of District Attorney Dewey, New York County, but did not go before the Grand Jury. In the afternoon of the same day, however, [redacted]

b7C

[redacted] This was in connection with an investigation which had been conducted by THOMAS E. DEWEY into the alleged misappropriation of the funds of the Bund by KUHN. More or less at the same time MAYOR LA GUARDIA had ordered an investigation by WILLIAM B. HERLANDS, Commissioner of Investigations into an alleged failure of KUHN or the German-American Bund to pay the New York City Sales Tax and Herlands' report in this matter was submitted to Dewey. The press stated that subsequently KUHN had declined to sign a waiver of immunity after he had practically reached the Grand Jury Room. The Press quoted him as stating that he would testify but would not sign the official waiver of immunity.

On May 25, 1939, the New York County Grand Jury returned an indictment of 12 counts of grand larceny and forgery on the charges of stealing \$14,548.59 of his organization's funds, according to the Press, and three hours later, he was arrested by Detectives operating from the District Attorney's Office. KUHN apparently had been under surveillance for some time by Detectives [redacted] allegedly from the time when he refused to go before the Grand Jury. He was arrested by the detectives named at Krumsville, Pa., three hours after the indictment was returned. According to the Press, the indictment charges six counts of first degree grand larceny, four counts of second degree grand larceny and two counts of third degree forgery. The first two counts accuse him of stealing \$8,907.35 by misappropriating the funds collected at Madison Square Garden Rally on February 20, 1939. Two more counts alleged a further theft of \$4,424.22 from a fund raised for the defense of six officials of the German-American Settlement League. Another theft of \$565.76, was, according to the indictment, used to pay for the transportation of furniture of MRS. FLORENCE CAMP from Los Angeles to New York and there was a second moving of furniture, according to the indictment which was financed by \$151.26 of the Bund's money. MRS. CAMP, incidentally is the blond with whom KUHN was photographed at the New York World's Fair. The indictment further alleges that KUHN stole \$500 from the German-American Settlement League by drawing a check to his own order, cashing it and charging it off

Letter to Director
61-520

June 19, 1939

on the books to legal fees. The two final counts in the indictment charged KUHN with forgery in making false entries in the books of the organization with regard to the above item.

On May 26, 1939, KUHN was held in \$5,000 bail by JUDGE CORNELIUS COLLINS in General Sessions on the above indictment. He was represented by VAHAN H. KALENIERIAN. It might be noted here that at the time of his arrest at Krumsville, KUHN stated that he was on his way to Chicago to fulfill a speaking engagement. He was taken to the Barracks of the Pennsylvania State Motor Police at Hamburg, Pa., and submitted a waiver of extradition and returned to New York City. At the time of the arraignment before JUDGE COLLINS KUHN was unable to produce the \$5,000 bond, and was removed to a detention cell. The bail money was eventually furnished in small bills and KUHN was released from the Tombs where he had been detained. Prior to his arraignment, KUHN was photographed and fingerprinted and appeared in the lineup at Police Headquarters. He remained about six hours in the Detention cell.

The NEW YORK TIMES, dated May 27, 1939, stated that on the return trip to New York City, after his arrest in Pennsylvania, KUHN boasted that he was a close friend of Chancellor HITLER and that he had been received recently by HITLER on a trip to Germany and he intimated that he did not think much of HITLER'S Minister of Propaganda, GOEBBELS. This same article relates that at the time of his arrest in Pennsylvania, KUHN was accompanied by GERHARDT WILHELM KUNZE, and THOMAS DIXON. When he agreed to waive extradition, he was arraigned before Justice of the Peace JOHN BREEN at Reading, Pa. In the meantime, the troopers had communicated with Assistant District Attorney MARK McQUILLAN of Berks County who prepared a waiver of extradition which KUHN signed before he went back to New York City.

The NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL-AMERICAN in an undated clipping, the date of which is probably May 26, 1939, refers to MRS. FLORENCE CAMP as the divorced wife of a wealthy Long Beach, California, oil man. NEWTON TODD, Attorney, Long Beach, is referred to as being MRS. CAMP'S brother. He stated that there had been a romance between them, but it has been off now for several months and MRS. CAMP'S divorced husband CHARLES W. CAMP was stated to have denied any information regarding the romance. He did state, however, that he understood that MRS.

Letter to Director
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June 19, 1939

CAMP had met KUHN on ship board while returning from England several months ago, before the Camp divorce.

On May 27, 1939, KUHN appeared at a Pro-American Rally of the Bund at Milwaukee and was alleged to have been greeted by 1,000 of his followers. Before KUHN was introduced, the audience heard speeches by COL. B. G. BLACKKEY, former Surgeon General of the United States and Chief NEW MOON of the Cherokee Indian tribe.

On May 28, 1939, KUHN was at Grafton, Wisconsin to participate in the dedication of a Bund camp known as Camp Hindenburg.

On June 2, 1939, KUHN, together with his attorney, KALENDERIAN, made an unsuccessful attempt to obtain permission to examine the Grand Jury minutes and to secure the return of books of the organization.

On June 2, 1939, KUHN issued a prepared statement to the Press stating in substance that the Bund's campaign to stamp out Communism in America had been so successful that his enemies had become desperate in their attempts to cripple him. He stated that he was a victim of Press Persecution.

On June 4, 1939, KUHN was a speaker at a gathering of what was stated to be more than 400 men and woman members of the organization, at Camp Nordland, New Jersey. Kuhn apparently discussed his arrest and stated that he was innocent of the charges made against him.

The NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, dated June 6, 1939, in a special dispatch from Andover, New Jersey, stated that at the time the people at Camp Nordland were addressed by KUHN, the name of GEN. GEORGE VAN HORN MOSELEY was cheered and that of District Attorney THOMAS E. DEWEY was booed.

HUGH O'CONNOR of the NEW YORK TIMES prepared a very brief history of KUHN and his organization which is published in the NEW YORK TIMES of June 5, 1939, clipping of which is submitted herewith.

Very truly yours,

P. E. Foxworth

P. E. FOXWORTH
Special Agent in Charge

25 Enclosures

U. S. ARRESTS BUND SPEAKER IN ARMY GARB

Chicago, June 2 (AP).—Benjamin Blackey, 71, who donned military regalia and medals to address a German-American Volksbund meeting in Milwaukee on May 27, was served with a federal warrant today seeking his removal to Milwaukee on charges of wearing a United States Army uniform illegally.

He was arraigned before Commissioner E. K. Walker and pleaded innocent. The hearing was continued to June 6 and bond was fixed at \$300.

That appearance topped a day of difficulties.

First, he was convicted in the So. State St. Police Court of assault with a deadly weapon. Louis Okmin, a photographer, testified Blackey pointed a pistol at him last Wednesday, when Okmin went to his Chicago home to take a picture. Judge Francis Borelli placed him on probation for one year.

Then Blackey admitted he was the Hugo Opitz who was charged with defrauding a Milwaukee innkeeper of \$77 in 1916. He was sent to jail in lieu of \$250 bail.

Assistant United States District Attorney Martin Ward said Blackey was supposed to have worn a uniform of a retired Colonel of the Army Medical Service at the Bund rally attended by Bund Fuehrer Fritz Kuhn.

Blackey said he was in the Army Medical Department during the Spanish-American War.

Blackey

CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

JUN 3 - 1937

DATE.

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

COMPLAINT IS FILED ON KUHN AS CITIZEN

Cahill Admits Getting Charges
That Bund Leader Concealed
Facts About His Past

AN AFFIDAVIT IS QUOTED

Anti-Nazi League Says Former
Employer Has Sworn He
Knows of Reich Jail Term

A complaint against Fritz Kuhn, leader of the German-American Bund, relating to the circumstances of his entry into this country and his subsequent naturalization as a citizen, has been submitted to Federal authorities here, the office of United States Attorney John T. Cahill admitted yesterday.

According to the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League to Champion Human Rights of 20 West Forty-seventh Street, a sworn statement has been made by a German refugee now resident in New York, who describes himself as a former employer of Kuhn and declares that Kuhn served a prison term in Germany in 1921 for a theft. Representatives of the league said yesterday that no mention of such an incident had been made by Kuhn in entering this country or when he applied for naturalization papers, which since have been granted to him.

A statement issued by the league yesterday alleges that Reinhold Spitz of 475 Central Park West swore to the statement submitted to the Federal authorities, that he was the owner of a clothing business in Munich at the time and that Kuhn's father had a business on the same street.

Upon Kuhn's release from prison, it is alleged by the league, a mutual friend of the Spitz and Kuhn families persuaded Mr. Spitz to give employment to Kuhn. Mr. Spitz's sworn paper sets forth that while Kuhn was in Mr. Spitz's employ certain new difficulties arose and the same mutual friend and members of the Kuhn family persuaded Mr. Spitz to contribute to a fund whereby Kuhn was enabled to emigrate to Mexico in 1922, the statement made by the league says. Kuhn entered this country in 1928 and became a naturalized citizen in 1934, according to the league.

Mr. Spitz is described by the league as a refugee who had to flee Germany because he is part Jewish and because of his democratic political beliefs.

Former Magistrate Joseph Goldstein of Brooklyn admitted yesterday that he represented Mr. Spitz, but he would not comment on the purported signed statement because he felt "it would be unethical." Mr. Goldstein was complainant against Kuhn in a criminal libel action that was dismissed by Magistrate George H. Folwell in Bay Ridge Court on April 10.

Kuhn was not reached for comment last night.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
MAY 9 - 1939	
NEW YORK OFFICE	
ROUTED TO	FILE

Clipping from
NEW YORK TIMES

DATE: MAY 9 - 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

How About It, Herr Kuhn?



(NEWS photo by Jakob)

This foto should prove most embarrassing to Fritz Kuhn. It was made at the World's Fair on May 3, when he declares he was "away in California." Kuhn, who claims police robbed his office of \$1,380, declared he intends to marry the blonde shown with him.

Photo of Kuhn With a Blonde Rips His Alibi

By GUY RICHARDS.

A fur-coated blonde dropped a new mantle of mystery yesterday over the affairs of Fritz Kuhn, fuehrer of the German-American Bund, who has charged police with plucking \$1,380 from his private office when he was "away in California."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
MAY 11 1939	
NEW YORK OFFICE	
ROUTED TO:	FILE

Clipping from
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

DATE: MAY 11 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

The blonde, who on Kuhn's insistence must remain nameless, is soon to become—on Kuhn's assurance—his next wife. This revelation from the local fuehrer discloses for the first time that Kuhn plans to get a divorce from the mother of his two children with whom he lived at 33-42 73d St., Jackson Heights.

The advent of the blonde in the court-ridden life of the former Bavarian guardsman was detected by a News cameraman last week at the World's Fair—at a moment when, Kuhn had insisted, he was in California.

The two were strolling in the Play Center at the Fair Grounds on Wednesday of last week. Snapped by the photographer, Kuhn refused to identify his companion.

The incident was forgotten until Kuhn's indignant charges Tuesday night that a police squad from the office of District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey had broken into his office at 178 E. 85th St. without court authority and had seized valuable papers and \$1,380 in cash.

Picture Contradicts Kuhn.

Kuhn declared he was in California at the time and that the discovery of his loss was not made until his return two days ago.

Paul E. Lockwood, Dewey's executive assistant, asserted that

Kuhn had returned to New York a week ago. The picture substantiates Lockwood's statement and contradicts that of Kuhn.

Lockwood denied Kuhn's charges in all other details. According to the Dewey assistant, a police squad was sent to the Bund's headquarters on Tuesday of last week, armed with a subpoena to investigate "certain alleged grand larcenies in substantial amounts."

The order was served, Lockwood declared, on James Wheeler Hill, Bund secretary, who offered no objection.

The following night, Kuhn was photographed at the Fair. But it was not until Tuesday, a week later, that the fuehrer made indignant announcement of his "discovery of the raid," and the shortage of \$1,380.

Confronted with the picture, however, he changed his story. He consulted the calendar and decided that it was true, that he had been at the World's Fair a week ago Wednesday, and had flown from Los Angeles the previous day.

It was then that he admitted that the woman in the picture was the woman in his life. Describing her as "charming and wonderful," he said she would become the Bund fuehrer's mate, as soon as "certain legal actions are ended." This, he said, would be in about four weeks.

GRAND JURY HEARS KUHN'S LIEUTENANT

Wheeler-Hill and Bund Leader,
Both Subpoenaed, Have Talk
With Dewey Assistant

Fritz Kuhn, the leader of the German-American Bund in this country, and his closest lieutenant, James Wheeler-Hill, appeared under subpoenas yesterday morning in the New York County grand jury's investigation of allegations against the Bund management, but did not testify. Both merely talked with Assistant District Attorney Frank A. F. Severance, who is presenting the evidence to the grand jurors. Kuhn later said at his office in East Eighty-fifth Street.

In the afternoon, however, Wheeler-Hill returned to the grand jury room alone, and, according to Kuhn, did testify, although Kuhn insisted he had not seen Wheeler-Hill since. No word of what took place from the time the two Bund leaders first appeared at the grand jury ante-chamber was given out at District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey's office.

About six weeks ago Mr. Dewey ordered an investigation into "certain alleged substantial felonies" in the handling of the funds of the bund and its five related corporations. Last Thursday Mr. Dewey informed Mayor La Guardia that he had ordered included in this inquiry the Mayor's suggestion in a letter the day before that the bund's payments under the city's sales tax laws be gone into.

Mr. La Guardia, in his letter to Mr. Dewey, referred to a report he had received from William B. Herlands, Commissioner of Investigations, saying an investigation by Mr. Herlands led to the suspicion that a total of \$4,855 in tax liabilities and penalties possibly was due under the sales tax laws.

On May 2, Mr. Dewey, as a part of his own investigation, had seized the books of the Kuhn corporations on a subpoena, and had them taken to his office for examination. Kuhn was out of town at the time, but about a week later, he called up Paul E. Lockwood, executive assistant district attorney, and charged that \$1,380 had been taken from his private desk during the service of the subpoena, which Mr. Lockwood promptly denied.

The sudden departure of the two bund leaders yesterday forenoon without having testified before the grand jurors led to reports that Kuhn had not kept his public promise of last Thursday to sign a waiver of immunity as a preliminary to his grand jury testimony. This report also had it that Wheeler-Hill had fallen into step with a similar refusal as they marched out of the grand jury ante-chamber.

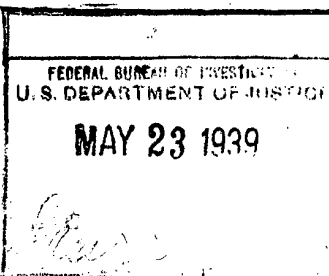
"The report that we refused to sign waivers of immunity is not true," Kuhn declared late in the afternoon. "We waited around there to be called for testimony. We were not asked to sign waivers of immunity before we left. We were told by Mr. Severance some time after our appearance that our testimony would not be required today. Mr. Severance told me he would let me know later the date on which I was to appear before the grand jurors."

"But did you know Wheeler-Hill went back to the grand jury room in the afternoon?" Kuhn was asked.

"Yes, I know that—and he testified."

"Did he sign a waiver of immunity, do you know?"

"I have not seen him since," Kuhn replied.



CLIPPING FORM
NEW YORK TIMES.

MAY 23 1939

DATE.

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

KUHN REFUSES TO SIGN WAIVER IN DEWEY QUIZ

Fritz Kuhn, long-embattled leader of the New York German American Bund, emerged frowning from a conference in District Attorney Dewey's office yesterday after refusing to sign a waiver of immunity in testifying before the Grand Jury.

Kuhn, whose passport visa was held up at the request of Mayor LaGuardia, appeared on a "John Doe" warrant served several days ago. Earlier he had said he was willing to appear and testify.

Kuhn, according to Commissioner of Investigation Herlands, and other Bund members have failed to pay city sales taxes on Bund paraphernalia. Kuhn also has been asked to explain seeming discrepancies in Bund accounts.

He, in turn, accused Dewey raiders of "stealing" \$1,380 from the safe at Bund headquarters two weeks ago when his records were seized.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
MAY 25 1939	
NEW YORK	
RECORDED	INDEXED

CLIPPING FROM

NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR

DATE. MAY 25 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

Kuhn Stalks Out On Failure to Get Immunity

Agrees to Talk Before
Grand Jury, Then Changes
Mind, Leaves in Huff

Fritz Kuhn, leader of the German-American Bund, appeared at the office of District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey yesterday and announced his willingness to go before the New York County Grand Jury investigating the activities of his organization. At the door of the grand jury room, however, the bund head suffered a change of heart, refused to sign a waiver of immunity and left in a huff.

His departure left Sewell T. Tyng and Frank A. F. Severance, Assistant District Attorneys, somewhat perplexed. Kuhn had come to the building alone, amiably informing reporters that he was about to go before the grand jury. Mr. Dewey's assistants were delighted at learning his good intentions. They marched him across the bridge to the Criminal Courts Building, where the grand jurors, informed of their next witness's identity, were waiting.

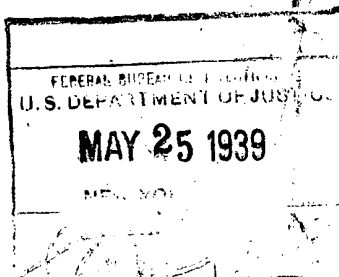
Confronted with an official waiver of immunity, Kuhn balked at putting his signature to it. Signing the document is a necessary procedure before testifying.

"I'll testify," he said, "but I won't sign."

The two assistants brought out their best arguments to persuade him to sign. The bund leader grew angry and more adamant. Muttering something about "turning out to be a John Doe," he left the building abruptly, refusing to answer queries concerning his action. Mr. Tyng and Mr. Severance returned crestfallen to report their failure to Mr. Dewey.

There was nothing more to be done about it. The grand jurors, re-informed that their next witness would not be Kuhn, went on hearing evidence of "certain alleged substantial felonies" in the handling of monies of the bund and its four allied corporations. In that connection Mr. Dewey has revealed that important shortages may be involved.

Whether Kuhn eventually appears before the grand jury, it is expected next to hear evidence of alleged evasions of sales and personal property taxes by bund leaders in selling swastikas, uniforms and other paraphernalia to members. That inquiry was sought by Mayor F. H. LaGuardia.



CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE

DATE **MAY 25 1939**

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

Dewey's Men Seize Kuhn in Pennsylvania

**Indicted in \$14,548 Theft
From Bund, Leader Is
Arrested on Way West**

**Agrees to Return
And Face Charges**

**Followed From City by
Detectives, He Lands
in Hamburg Barracks**

Fritz Kuhn, "Fuehrer" of the German-American Bund, was arrested by District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey's detectives yesterday at Krumsville, Pa., three hours after a New York County Grand Jury had indicted him on twelve counts of grand larceny and forgery on charges of stealing \$14,548.59 of his pro-Nazi organization's funds.

Headed westward in an automobile with three companions, the forty-four-year-old bund head was taken to the state police barracks at Hamburg, Pa., where he waived extradition and prepared to return to New York to face the charges. Apparently resigned to the swiftness of his indictment and apprehension, he refused stolidly to comment on the allegations, which, in the event of conviction, could bring him a maximum term of fifty years in state prison.

Unquestionably pleased at the successful capture, Mr. Dewey commented: "The indictment shows that Kuhn is just a common thief."

The bund leader's movements had been closely observed by Detectives James Cashman, James Canavan and Joseph Norbury from the time he refused to testify before the grand jury on Wednesday afternoon. When he hurriedly packed three bags yesterday morning and headed west with three men, the detectives followed in another car.

Seized in Restaurant

Kuhn's first stop was the little village of Krumsville, 125 miles from New York and twenty-eight miles northwest of Reading, Pa. While an attendant filled the gas tank of Kuhn's car Detective Cashman telephoned Mr. Dewey. It was 5:45 p. m. Learning for the first time that the indictment had been handed up and a warrant issued for Kuhn's arrest, the detectives surprised Kuhn as he was about to sit down for a meal at a restaurant on Route 22. At 5:50 p. m. Cashman called the District Attorney again to report that their man was in custody.

Protesting that he was on his way to Chicago to fulfill a speaking engagement, Kuhn asked for a safety pin to repair a tear in his trousers before proceeding to Hamburg. One of his companions, Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, of 24-36 Twenty-ninth Street, Astoria, Queens, went with him. The others, Thomas Dixon, of 243 West Ninety-eighth Street, and Gustave Elmer, of Hoboken, N. J., ostensibly continued their journey westward.

It was planned to book Kuhn at the Beach Street police station on his return to New York. Meanwhile, Mark McQuillen, Assistant District Attorney, left at once for Hamburg to sign the waiver of extradition.

Rally Theft Charged

Kuhn's indictment charged six counts of first-degree grand larceny, four counts of second-degree grand larceny and two counts of third-degree forgery. The first two counts accuse him of stealing \$8,907.35 from the Bund by misappropriating funds collected at the organization's rally at Madison Square Garden on Feb. 20. The rally, devoted to violent denunciation of American Jewry and present heads of the American government, was guarded by one of the heaviest police concentrations ever assembled in New York.

Two more counts alleged a further theft by the bund head of \$4,424.22 from a fund raised for the defense of six officials of the German-American Settlement League, which operates Camp Siegfried, near Riverhead, L. I., for Nazi sympathizers. They were convicted of violating the state civil rights law in failing to file membership lists with the Secretary of State, as required of oath-bound organizations. The verdict has been reversed by the Appellate Division.

Another theft of \$565.76 of the bund's money, according to the indictment, was for the purposes of paying for the transportation of Mrs. Florence Camp's furniture from Los Angeles to New York. Mrs. Camp was photographed with Kuhn when they visited the New York World's Fair ten days ago. A second moving of furniture from New York to Cleveland was also financed by

\$151.26 of the bund's money, the indictment alleges.

Kuhn also stole \$500 from the Settlement League, the indictment continues, by drawing a check to his own order, cashing it and charging it off on the books to legal fees paid to James D. C. Murray, attorney, for arguing the league's officials' appeal in the Camp Siegfried case. Mr. Murray never got the money, it is alleged.

The final two counts merely charge Kuhn with forgery in making false entries in his organization's books in regard to the Murray item.

Mr. Dewey was quick to give full credit to his two assistants, Sewell Tyng and Frank A. F. Severance, for the indictment and arrest of the bund leader. Their investigation of the last seven weeks was revealed on May 2 when Kuhn protested the seizure of the bund's books. At that time he charged that Mr. Dewey's men stole \$1,380 in currency in the process of confiscating the papers and files.

Kuhn appeared at the District Attorney's office to discuss the matter, but nothing came of it. Meanwhile, twenty of his intimate associates were appearing one by one before the grand jury to give their testimony. Another twenty refused to testify.

Then, on May 17, Mayor F. H. LaGuardia asked the District Attorney to take proper "prosecutive action" against Kuhn and other Bund officials on sales tax law charges in the sale of swastikas, uniforms and other paraphernalia. Mr. Dewey promised to attend to this after his own investigation was ended. It was certain yesterday that so far as Kuhn was concerned, no action on the Mayor's charges would be brought against him.

MAY 26 1939

NEW YORK

ROUTED TO: FILE

CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE.

MAY 26 1939

DATE.

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

Kuhn, who is often called "Fuehrer" by his followers, has led a stormy life as head of an organization he once said numbered 200,000, but which appears to some officials to possess about 10,000 members. A vigorous, square-jawed, unsmiling man, he was born in Munich, Germany, on May 15, 1895. In the World War he fought on four fronts as head of a machine-gun company in the Alps Division of the Bavarian Guard.

In his autobiography, printed in the bund paper, "Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter," which he edits, Kuhn says he marched with Hitler on Nov. 9, 1923, in a parade that was fired on by police. That same year he came to the United States and became a naturalized citizen. For a time he was a chemist in the Ford Motor Company plant in Detroit, but his rising leadership in pre-bund circles in the Mid-West led him to abandon that occupation.

His election as national chief of the Friends of New Germany late in 1935 made him known nationally for the first time. As head of the bund he has proclaimed that his organization believes in tolerance and the Constitution, but opposes the Jews. Accustomed to being called before organizations investigating alleged un-American activities, Kuhn is scheduled to appear before a similar inquiry now under way in Washington by the House Committee on un-American Activities.

The whereabouts of the bund leader's wife and two children is unknown at present. They were known to have been in Germany recently, and it was thought that Kuhn would join them there when Mayor LaGuardia balked that possibility by asking the State Department on May 13 to withhold his passport pending the outcome of inquiries into the bund's affairs.

KUHN IS ARRESTED IN THEFT OF \$14,548 OF BUND'S FUNDS

American 'Fuehrer' Seized in
Pennsylvania With 3 Aides
on a Hasty Trip

DENIES HE WAS FLEEING

Being Rushed Back Here by
Auto—Accused of Filching
\$8,000 From Garden Rally

Fritz Kuhn, the so-called Fuehrer of the German-American Bund in this country, was indicted yesterday by the New York County grand jury on a charge of the theft of \$14,548 of the bund's funds. But before the indictment was handed down at 2 o'clock in the afternoon Kuhn vanished from the city with three other Bundsmen in an automobile.

At 5:45 o'clock, however, Kuhn was arrested by Detectives James Gashman, James Canavan and Joseph Norbury of District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey's office at Schlenker's gas station, a mile east of Krumsville, a hamlet about thirty miles from Allentown, Pa. Neither Kuhn nor his companions, who were not arrested, were aware that the detectives since early in the day had been trailing Kuhn in another car from Eighty-fifth Street and Third Avenue.

Kuhn had pulled up to the filling station with three traveling bags in the rear of his car, which he had gathered at three separate places in this city at the start of his trip, to place also in the car the trunks he previously had sent to Krumsville, the detectives reported over the telephone to Mr. Dewey.

Later another detective telephoned to Mr. Dewey's office and said that Kuhn would return to plead to the indictment without extradition proceedings.

Identifies Kuhn's Companions

The detective also revealed that the three men in the automobile with Kuhn were Thomas Dixon, Gustave J. Elmer, a national organizer for the German-American Bund, and Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, a publicity agent for the Bund.

Kuhn, Mr. Dewey was told, insisted he was not in flight from arrest when he was overtaken, but that he and his companions were on their way to Chicago and Milwaukee, where Kuhn was to make speeches at Bund gatherings.

Up to the time of the actual arrest the detectives had no opportunity to get in touch with Mr. Dewey's office to learn whether the grand jury had acted in the investigation. Then one telephoned from the filling station and the arrest followed.

The detective was told that fifteen minutes after the indictment had been handed up to Judge Cornelius F. Collins in General Sessions a bench warrant had been issued for Kuhn. The detective said that Kuhn would be taken to the barracks of the Pennsylvania State police at Hamburg. After some discussion at Hamburg it was decided to take Kuhn to Reading to sign a formal waiver of extradition. He left there late last night by motor for New York.

When Mr. Dewey was asked whether he believed that Kuhn actually was in flight from arrest in the alleged thefts of the bund's funds, he said: "It looks very much like it. The indictment shows that Kuhn is just a common thief."

The prosecutor pointed out that if Kuhn is convicted on the twelve counts in the indictment he will be liable to imprisonment for a term of fifty years.

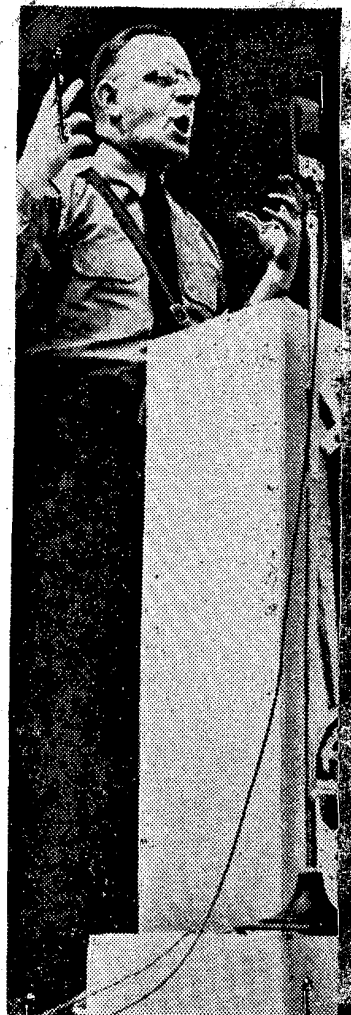
Mr. Dewey announced that he would send one of his prosecutors to the Hamburg police barracks to be present in the event Kuhn's friends attempted to obtain his release on bail before extradition papers were signed by Governor Lehman in Albany and sent to Governor James of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg.

It developed that the hamlet of Krumsville is in a district of Pennsylvania in which Nazism is strong and it was believed that friends of Kuhn secretly had taken his three trunks there at his direction.

Charges in Indictment

The first six counts of the indictment charge grand larceny in the first degree, the next four second-degree grand larceny and the last two forgery in the third degree. The evidence against Kuhn was presented to the grand jury by Assistant District Attorneys Frank A. F. Severance and Sewell T. Tyng in an investigation of Kuhn's alleged misappropriation of the bund's funds that began seven weeks ago.

The first word that the investigation had been in progress came from Kuhn about ten days ago when he revealed that on May 2 last attachés of Mr. Dewey's office, including a detective and an accountant, had raided his office at



Associated Press
INDICTED AND ARRESTED
Fritz Kuhn

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
MAY 26 1939	
NEW YORK OFFICE	
ROUTED TO	FILE

CLIPPING FORM
NEW YORK TIMES.

DATE. MAY 26 1939
FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

178 East Eighty-fifth Street and seized the books and papers of the bund and five of its related corporations, all alleged to have been under his sole control.

Kuhn at the time declared the raid was made when he was away on a trip to the West and told Paul E. Lockwood, executive assistant district attorney, over the telephone that \$1,380 had been taken from his personal desk in the headquarters during the raid on a subpoena duces tecum. Mr. Lockwood promptly told Kuhn that no money had been taken from his office and invited Kuhn to call at the District Attorney's office the next day formally to file charges of the alleged disappearance of the money.

A few days before James Wheeler-Hill, described as Kuhn's closest lieutenant in the management of the bund and its allied corporations, had spent several hours with Assistant District Attorneys Severance and Tyng under interrogation on the bund's finances.

On May 17 Kuhn and Wheeler-Hill appeared outside the grand jury room under subpoenas, but both left without testifying. Wheeler-Hill, however, returned alone and testified under a waiver of immunity, Assistant District Attorneys Severance and Tyng admitted yesterday.

Kuhn unexpectedly again was subpoenaed for grand jury testimony last Wednesday, and, before going to the grand jury ante-chamber, told the two prosecutors repeatedly that he was eager to testify and would sign a waiver of immunity, but when he reached the door of the grand jury room, and the assistant district attorneys were instructed by the grand jurors to invite him inside, Kuhn announced he would not sign a waiver of immunity.

Refuses to Explain Change

When he took this surprising stand the two prosecutors stepped aside, and Kuhn walked stiffly out of the Criminal Courts Building, refusing to explain why he had changed his mind. He was not aware, however, that the three detectives who placed him under arrest in the Pennsylvania hamlet late yesterday afternoon had been assigned to trail him and observe his every action, indicating that Mr. Dewey suspected he would resort to flight.

Last Thursday Mr. Dewey included in the grand jury investigation the request of Mayor La Guardia that an inquiry be made of alleged violations of the city's sales tax laws by Kuhn in the sales of supplies by the bund leader to adherents of his bund and allied corporations. At the time Mr. La Guardia referred to a report he had received from William B. Herlands, Commissioner of Investigations, that an inquiry he had conducted into the bund, at which Wheeler-Hill was among the witnesses, developed that there were irregularities involving \$4,855 in tax liabilities and penalties due.

The first and second counts in the indictment alleged that last February Kuhn stole \$8,907 of the bund's funds, the proceeds of a bund rally in Madison Square Garden on Feb. 20. The next two counts accuse Kuhn of having stolen and embezzled \$4,424 of the funds of one of the bund's allied corporations, the German-American Settlement League, Inc., which had been gathered for an appeal from the conviction of a large number of bund members in connection with a mass meeting at Riverhead, L. I. This money, it was alleged, was taken by Kuhn between June, 1938, and October of that year.

The fifth and sixth indictments allege that Kuhn, on July 5 last, stole \$556 of the funds of the German-American bund, which he used, it was alleged, in payment for the transportation of a load of furniture belonging to a Mrs. Florence Camp from Los Angeles to this city. Mrs. Camp, District Attorney Dewey said, is the blond woman with whom Kuhn had himself photographed recently at the World's Fair.

The next two indictments accuse Kuhn of the theft of \$500 from the German-American Bund and the German-American Settlement League, Inc. The District Attorney explained that Kuhn was accused of drawing checks for the amount to his own order and cashing them and then changing the books of the bund and the league to have it appear that the money had been used in payment of legal fees to James D. C. Murray, lawyer, in connection with the appeal that was to be taken on the conviction of the bund members in Riverhead.

The ninth and tenth indictment allege that Kuhn stole another \$151 from the bund to transport Mrs. Camp's furniture from this city to Cleveland. Mr. Dewey said that Mr. Murray denied he had received the money from Kuhn. The last two counts, the forgery charges, relate to an alleged false entry Kuhn made in the books of the bund and the league of the money he represented he had paid to Mr. Murray.

KUHN IS HELD IN \$5000 BAIL; DENIES LARCENY AND FORGERY

BUND CHIEF IN POLICE LINE-UP



Fritz Kuhn (center) leaving Police Headquarters with two detectives.

Sun Staff Photo.

**Bund Leader Finger's Bible
Nervously During His
Arraignment Here.**

EVINCES ANGER IN LINE-UP

**Calls Indictment for \$14,589
Theft Nonsense--Seized in
Car in Pennsylvania.**

Fritz Kuhn, leader of the German-American Bund, who was on his way West when apprehended by District Attorney Dewey's detectives in Pennsylvania, was held in \$5,000 bail by Judge Cornelius F. Collins in General Sessions today on a twelve-count indictment charging him with grand larceny and forgery.

The bund leader nervously fingered a witness Bible on the counsel table as he pleaded not guilty to the charges leveled against him by the New York county prosecutor. The twelve counts call for a maximum sentence of fifty years.

Appearing with the bund's Fuehrer were his counsel, Vahan H. Kalendarian and Gustav Elner, national organizer of the bund. Kuhn and Elner, in a car loaded down with suitcases and even a trunk or two, were headed for Chicago and Milwaukee when overtaken by three detectives from Mr. Dewey's office, who had been trailing Kuhn for weeks.

The arrest was made in Krumville, Pa., and Kuhn waived extradition and returned here to be locked in a cell at Police Headquarters overnight and to face the line-up early today. Fingerprinted and booked, he was asked if he were surprised at the arrest.

Nonsense, Says Fuehrer.

"Certainly I was surprised," he replied. "But don't worry about that. I'll take care of it."

As Frank A. R. Severance, Assistant District Attorney, explained it, the twelve counts against Kuhn grew out of the appropriation for his own use of \$14,589 of bund money. The charges are nonsense, Kuhn said.

Judge Collins arrived in the courtroom about 10:15 o'clock and disposed of a number of pleadings before Kuhn's case was called. Kuhn had been brought to the Criminal Courts Building from Police Headquarters in a patrol wagon, accompanied by two of the three arresting detectives. He waited downstairs in the detention pen until his case was called.

The Bund leader wore a double-breasted gray suit with a red pencil stripe and he filled it with the bearing of a storm trooper as he stood erect at the bar.

When Kuhn was called, Judge Collins read an order of the Appellate Division barring the taking of late photographs in the court. There were about fifteen photographers in the jury box, who apparently did not hear the court read the order. The court was not crowded, there on a twelve-count indictment charging about fifty persons present, including the attendants and the principals.

Angry in Line-up.

Earlier, in the line-up at headquarters Kuhn appeared to be bailing with repressed anger. He was

Continued on Page 15.

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NEW YORK SUN
DATE

MAY 26 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

FRITZ KUHN HELD IN BAIL OF \$5000

Continued from Page 1.

dressed in a gray hat and suit, a white shirt and a red tie. When asked whether the accusation against him was true, he answered, "no."

"Why were you arrested, Fritz?" asked Acting Lieut. James Pyke.

"I don't know yet," replied the bund leader.

"Were you ever arrested before?"

"No."

When he was bundled into a patrol wagon to be taken to General Sessions, a crowd of fifty or more persons was standing around watching.

"Hello, Fritz," some one called. He hesitated a second on the step of the wagon; then some one else called: "Wie macht der Hitler? (How is Hitler faring?)" Kuhn made no answer. He climbed in and the patrol wagon rolled away.

Kuhn, who refused to testify before the Grand Jury on Wednesday, was first booked at the Beach street police station after he had waived extradition in Pennsylvania. He was traveling across country with three companions in an automobile when Mr. Dewey's detectives arrested him. Informed of the capture, Mr. Dewey commented:

"The indictment shows that Kuhn is just a common thief."

Trailed by Dewey's Men.

From the time he refused to go before the Grand Jury on Wednesday three of Mr. Dewey's men—James Cashman, James Canovan and Joseph Morbury—had watched his every movement. Yesterday morning he packed three suitcases, got in an automobile with his three companions and headed west. The detectives in another automobile followed.

The first stop was in the little village of Krumville, Pa., 125 miles from New York. Kuhn's car pulled up at a gasoline station, and the detectives stopped too. Cashman telephoned to Mr. Dewey's office in New York to ask what new development had happened. He was told that the Grand Jury had issued an indictment and that a bench warrant had been handed down.

By that time Kuhn and his friends had sat down to a meal in a restaurant on the highway. The detectives walked in and announced that he was under arrest, and then called Mr. Dewey again to report the capture. Kuhn protested that he was on his way to Chicago to fulfill a speaking engagement, but the detectives, after giving him a safety pin to fasten a rip in his trousers, took him to the barracks of the Pennsylvania State Motor Police at Hamburg.

Waives Extradition.

One of his companions, who identified himself as Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, of 24-36 Twenty-ninth street, Astoria, Queens, went to the State police station with him. But the

other two—Thomas Dixon, of 243 West Ninety-eighth street, and Gustave Elmer of Hoboken, N. J.—continued on their way. Kuhn agreed almost immediately to waive extradition and return to New York city.

When the detectives' automobile with Kuhn in it approached the Beach street station, Kuhn apparently saw the newspaper men and photographers waiting there for him.

"Hello, boys," he called, as the car pulled to a stop.

The detectives hustled him into the station and before Lieut. Fred Fleischmann.

"What's the name?" asked the lieutenant.

"Kuhn . . . Fritz," replied Detective Canavan.

"What's the charge?" the lieutenant asked. "Who's the complainant?"

"The people of New York," the detective answered, "in a warrant signed by a clerk of the General Sessions."

Kuhn gave his age as 43 years and his address as 248 East Eighty-seventh street, which the police described as the headquarters of the bund.

When taken to Police Headquarters and put through the routine of photographing and fingerprinting, Kuhn appeared fairly cheerful when questioned by reporters. He was asked about Mrs. Florence Camp, a blonde, with whom he was photographed at the World's Fair when he was supposed to be out of the city.

"That's my business," he snapped.

"What about that \$14,589 you are accused of taking?" he was asked.

"That's all nonsense," was his answer.

The first two counts of the indictment against him accuse him of having misappropriated \$8,907.35 from the funds collected at the bund rally at Madison Square Garden on February 20. Two more counts accuse him of taking \$4,424.22 from a fund collected for the defense of six officials of the German-American Settlement League, which operates a camp near Riverhead, L. I. They were convicted of having violated the State civil rights law, but the Appellate Division reversed the verdict.

The indictment charged him with a theft of \$565.76 of the bund's money to transport Mrs. Camp's furniture from Los Angeles to New York, and with taking \$151.26 to move other furniture from Cleveland to New York. A theft of \$500 from the Settlement League by charging the money to legal fees in the name of James D. C. Murray also is among the charges.

Accused of Forgery.

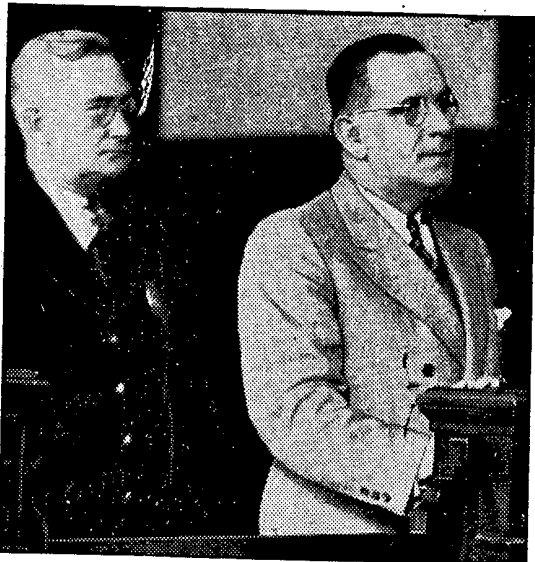
The final two counts in the indictment accuse Kuhn of committing forgery in making false entries in his books in the alleged payment to Mr. Murray.

The indictment and arrest of the bund leader, who frequently is called Fuehrer by his followers, came as a result of a lengthy investigation by Mr. Dewey. It began around the first of the month when men from Mr. Dewey's office raided Kuhn's office. Kuhn protested and accused them of stealing \$1,380 in currency, but Mr. Dewey then, and later, ridiculed the charge.

On May 17 Mayor LaGuardia sent Mr. Dewey a list of charges against the bund leader prepared by Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands and asked the District Attorney to take proper prosecutive action. Mr. Dewey said that he would attend to those charges after his own investigation had been concluded.

Kuhn Freed in Bail As Brunette Waits

A new mystery woman—this time a brunette—appeared last night in the life of Fritz Kuhn, German-American Bund leader, as his "Man Friday," Gustave Elmer, bailed him out of Tombs prison with \$5,000 cash in bills of small denomination.



Bund leader, Fritz Kuhn, tapped nervously on a rail during his arraignment in General Sessions yesterday. He was released on \$5,000 bail. (Other photos on Pages 1 and 15)

against him sets forth that he "is infatuated with a blonde," although he is a married man.

Neither Kuhn, Elmer nor the woman would disclose her identity nor her connection with the case.

Until 5:20 p. m. the bespectacled Kuhn for six hours had paced the concrete floor of cell 527, while his followers, turned down by bondsmen who refused to pledge his \$5,000 bail, sought support from individual Bund members whom he is accused of robbing.

Upon being released, the Bund leader was asked if he had anything to say in reply to District Attorney Dewey's charge that he is "a common thief."

"I have nothing to say," he replied.

Earlier Kuhn was photographed and fingerprinted for the Rogues Gallery, appeared in the lineup at Police Headquarters and then was arraigned before General Sessions Judge Collins. He pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging larceny and forgery in the alleged disappearance of \$14,548.59 of Bund funds.

Kuhn was arrested by three New York detectives in Krumsville, Pa., Thursday as he and three fellow-Bundsmen were headed west.

At the lineup, detectives questioned felons and vagrants picked up during the night, saving Kuhn for the last. Then Lieut. James Pytke read the charge against him and demanded:

"What's this all about, Fritz? Is it true?"

"No," Kuhn replied, surlily.

"Why were you arrested?"

"I don't know yet," the prisoner answered.

Native of Munich

Then, in answer to routine questions, Kuhn gave his occupation as president of the German-American Bund, said he was formerly a chemical engineer last employed by the Ford Motor Co. in Detroit. He said he was a native of Munich, Germany; has lived in the United States 14 years, and never had been arrested before.

Wearing a gray suit with a red pin stripe, white shirt, red tie and his hair slicked back, Kuhn, looking haggard, drummed his fingers on a Bible that lay on the table before him and waited while the clerk intoned:

"Fritz Kuhn, you are charged with grand larceny first degree, grand larceny second degree, and forgery third degree. How do you plead?"

"Not guilty," answered Kuhn, emphatically.

Assistant District Attorney Frank Severance then asked that bail be fixed at \$5,000, a figure which

caused Judge Collins to look up in surprise. Said the court:

"Don't you think that is rather low in view of the charges?"

Severance then explained that Kuhn had waived extradition at the time of his arrest, and because of that he was asking nominal bail.

"Well," said the court, "if it was left to me I would not have fixed it so low."

Kuhn's attorney, Vahan H. Kalendarian, then spoke for his client, the bail was fixed and Kuhn led away across the Bridge of Sighs to his cell in the Tombs.

Meanwhile, it was reported that Mrs. Florence Camp, with whom Kuhn, according to the indictment, "is infatuated," is here from Cleveland.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
MAY 27 1939	
NEW YORK OFFICE	
FILED IN:	FILE

CLIPPING FROM

NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR

DATE. MAY 27 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

Kuhn Denies Theft, Freed In \$5,000 Bail

Bund Leader Still Jaunty After 6 Hours in Tombs; Friend's Cash Frees Him

A Gibe About Hitler Makes Him Bristle

May Issue Statement; Calls Charge He Stole From Bund 'Nonsense'

Fritz Kuhn, "Fuehrer" of the German-American Bund, arrested on Thursday in Krumsville, Pa., and brought back to New York to face charges of embezzling \$14,548.59 of his pro-Nazi organization's funds, was released from the Tombs at 5:30 p. m. yesterday, free in \$5,000 cash bail, after pleading not guilty to his indictment on twelve counts of first and second degree grand larceny and forgery.

Six hours in a prison cell had failed to damp the air of bravado that had carried the bund head through a long day of formal police and court procedure. Greeting his attorney with a hearty handshake, he grinned at the crowd of some 250 onlookers, told reporters he might make a statement later, clambered into a waiting automobile and sped away down Centre Street toward City Hall.

His prolonged stay in the Tombs, where he lunched on the prison fare of fish, potatoes and bread, was occasioned by the failure of his attorney to find a bondsman willing to go the bund leader's nominal bail. Three were approached. They refused to discuss the matter. Eventually, Gustav Elmer, of Hoboken, N. J., showed up with a sack full of \$5 and \$10 bills. Inspected by prison officials, it was found to total \$5,000. An attempt by Elmer to explain the source of the money was hushed immediately by the attorney.

Elmer was one of three men heading westward with Kuhn in an automobile when District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey's detectives arrested the "Fuehrer" late Thursday afternoon at Krumsville, 125 miles from New York, three hours after his indictment by a New York County Grand Jury. Ostensibly on his way to a speaking engagement in Chicago, Kuhn had been under careful scrutiny since his refusal to testify before the grand jury on Wednesday.

Called "just a common thief" by Mr. Dewey, Kuhn waived extradition after a slight argument with the New York detectives over their jurisdictional rights. Arriving here early yesterday, he greeted reporters with a jaunty "Hello, boys!" when he was booked at the Beach Street station. After passing a few hours in a cell at Police Headquarters he turned out spick and span for the morning line-up, wearing a gray suit with a red pin stripe, white shirt, red tie, gray fedora hat and highly polished black shoes.

Passing off as "a lot of nonsense" the charges that could bring him a fifty-year prison term in the event of conviction and maximum sentence, he professed complete surprise at his arrest. "But I'll take care of that," he added. Asked whether it was true, as charged in his indictment, that he spent bund funds to transport a woman friend's furniture here from California, he snapped, "That's my business."

Explaining that he had been a chemical engineer with the Ford Motor Company in Detroit until the bund began taking most of his time, Kuhn denied any misappropriation of the bund's funds and said he did not even know why he was arrested. Two hundred and fifty detectives at the morning line-up listened quietly to his story.

Everything was going along nicely

for the bund head until he left headquarters for the Court of General Sessions after having his picture taken for the "rouges" gallery. As he stepped into the patrol wagon a bystander called out: "Hello, Fritz—wie macht der Hitler?" which, freely translated, means, "How's Hitler doing?"

Kuhn stopped short at the sound of the German phrase, stopped smiling and glowered at the crowd. Then he drew his heavy frame erect and stamped into the wagon.

After a thirty-minute wait in General Sessions while the court disposed of run-of-the-mill cases, Judge Cornelius F. Collins called Kuhn to the bench for arraignment. Looking sober and very unhappy, the "Fuehrer" picked nervously at the Bible used for swearing in witnesses on the railing before him. His attorney, Vahan H. Kalendarian, stood beside him.

The indictment was read. Kuhn was asked how he pleaded. "I am not guilty!" he answered emphatically.

The matter of bail came up. Frank A. F. Severance, Assistant District Attorney, asked for the small sum of \$5,000 in view of the fact that the defendant had waived extradition and returned without causing trouble or expense. Judge Collins looked pained.

"I think the District Attorney is

very modest in asking that amount of bail," he observed. "If it had been up to me, I would not have been so modest. But if the District Attorney is satisfied, it's all right with me, and I will fix bail at \$5,000."

Whereupon Kuhn was taken to the Tombs to await the outcome of his attorney's bail search. It was believed that Kuhn put up half of his bail in cash and that the remainder came from a friend or friends in Yorkville, home of the bund headquarters at 248 East Eighty-seventh Street. The court gave him until May 31 to make motions in his case.

The bund head's arrest in Krumsville was necessitated by the fact that he packed his bags and left town before the grand jury got around to indicting him. The detectives following him had no chance to telephone the District Attorney to find out whether their man had been indicted and they could safely make the arrest until Kuhn and his companions stopped for gas and dinner at the hamlet twenty-eight miles northwest of Reading, Pa.

Besides Elmer, the forty-three-year-old bund leader's companions on the trip west were Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, of 24-36 Twenty-ninth Street, Astoria, Queens, and Thomas Dixon, of 243 West Ninety-eighth Street, both organizers for the bund. All of them returned to New York when their journey was interrupted.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAY 27 1939

NEW YORK

CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE.

DATE.

MAY 27 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

KUHN OUT ON BAIL ON THEFT CHARGE

**\$5,000 in Small Bills Frees
Bund Leader—Detectives
Tell of Exciting Pursuit**

Fritz Kuhn, 43 years old, the president of the German-American Bund, was released in \$5,000 bail from the Tombs at 5:30 o'clock last evening, almost twenty-four hours after his capture in an automobile near Krumsville, a Pennsylvania hamlet, on an indictment charging him with the theft of \$14,548 of the bund's funds. Kuhn spent six and one-half hours in a Tombs cell after he had pleaded not guilty before Judge Cornelius F. Collins in General Sessions.

He would have been taken from his cell an hour earlier, however, had it not been for the fact that somebody, described briefly by Gustave Elmer, a national organizer of the bund, as a "kind friend," had furnished the bail in banknotes, mostly of small denominations, which had to be counted by Warden William Adams in his office.

The money was brought to the prison by Elmer and Kuhn's lawyer, Vohan H. Kalendarian. Finally, when Warden Adams ordered the doors on the main entrance of the Tombs facing Center Street opened, Kuhn and the other two men hurried to an automobile in which another man and a young woman, a brunette, both of whom refused to reveal their identity, sped off with the bund leader.

Kuhn's only statement before their departure was: "I shall prepare a statement about this whole affair later."

Elmer Accompanied Kuhn

Elmer, the bund organizer, was one of three men who accompanied Kuhn on his trip through Pennsylvania, which started Thursday, several hours before the New York County grand jury handed up the indictment, containing six counts of first-degree grand larceny, four of second-degree grand larceny and two of forgery.

The grand jurors had handed up the indictment in an investigation of Kuhn's manipulation of the bund and its five related corporations that District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey ordered about seven weeks ago.

When Kuhn refused to waive immunity at the grand jury door last Wednesday, after he had insisted to the prosecutors he wanted to testify, District Attorney Dewey ordered Detectives James Canavan, James Cashman and Joseph Norbury, who are attached to his office, to trail him. It developed later that the District Attorney feared Kuhn might attempt to escape from the country before the indictment was handed up.

This order, it was disclosed yesterday, led to one of the most exciting automobile chases through three States experienced by members of the New York police force in years. The three detectives had posted themselves in an automobile Thursday near Eighty-fifth Street and Third Avenue, or within about fifty feet of the headquarters of the German-American Bund and its allied corporations, at 178 East Eighty-fifth Street, when Kuhn and three other men drove off in Kuhn's

automobile, with Kuhn at the wheel.

The detectives were under orders not to arrest Kuhn until they had definite word from Mr. Dewey's office that the indictment had been found and a bench warrant issued. And, above all things, they were to be careful that Kuhn did not become suspicious he was being trailed.

Kuhn's progress through Jersey City and Newark was rather cautious, but eventually, when he struck Route 22, leading to the Pennsylvania capital at Harrisburg, the detectives realized they had a wild driver to follow. Kuhn, they said yesterday, "just burned up the road," seldom traveling less than seventy miles an hour.

Time and again, because of his terrific speed and the necessity for their remaining a safe distance behind him not to arouse his suspicion, Kuhn vanished, but fortunately for the pursuers he always held straight to Route 22 and each time they picked his car up again.

They had been trailing Kuhn six hours, without being able to telephone the District Attorney's office, when Kuhn brightened the lives of the detectives by suddenly stopping at Schlenker's gas station, a mile east of Krumsville. Detective Canavan speedily hopped to a telephone and informed Mr. Dewey of the pursuit of Kuhn. He was told to arrest him, as the indictment had been handed up almost four hours before.

Kuhn and his companions were adding three trunks to the three handbags they had taken with them when they left this city as the detectives drove up to him, and informed him he was under arrest.

"Where are you from?" Kuhn demanded.

"New York," Cashman replied.

"Do you know what State you are in now?" was Kuhn's next question.

"Yes, Pennsylvania," Norbury interjected.

"Ha, then you have no jurisdiction here," announced the Bund leader with an air of finality, to which Canavan replied: "Oh, we'll get over that. We are arresting you on a grand larceny indictment, which was returned against you at 2 o'clock this afternoon by the New York County grand jury, and we're going to see that you go back to New York."

Go to Troopers' Barracks

In a few minutes the detectives had communicated with the Pennsylvania State police barracks at Hamburg, a short distance away, and when two troopers appeared soon after, Kuhn agreed to accompany them to the barracks. Elmer and the two other men in the car with Kuhn, Gerhardt Wilhelm Kunze, the Bund publicity chief, and Thomas Dixon, drove Kuhn's car to the barracks.

On the way Kuhn announced defiantly that he would not return to face the indictment unless under extradition, but later, according to the detectives, he soliloquized: "Well, if I don't go back without

extradition, maybe it would look as though I was running away."

This led to Kuhn's arraignment at 9:45 that night before Justice of the Peace John Breen in Reading, to which the party had driven. The State troopers had communicated with Assistant District Attorney Mark McQuillan of Berks County, in which Krumsville is situated, and McQuillan prepared the waiver of extradition which Kuhn signed before he started back to the city with the faithful Elmer and the detectives.

On the trip to this city, according to the detectives, the bund leader boasted that he was a close friend of Chancellor Hitler and that he recently had been received by Hitler on a visit to Germany, but he intimated he did not think much of the ability of Hitler's Minister of Propaganda, Goebbels.

RECEIVED BY CLIPPING DIVISION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAY 27 1939

NEW YORK OFFICE

ROUTED TO:

FILE

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NEW YORK TIMES.

DATE: MAY 27 1939
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The detectives arrived with their prisoner at the Beach Street station at 2:25 o'clock in the morning, and Kuhn promptly was lodged in a cell. He was placed in a patrol wagon with other prisoners shortly after 9 A. M., photographed and fingerprinted and placed in the lineup at Police Headquarters. There Acting Lieutenant James G. Pyke questioned him before the assembled detectives. Pyke had read the charge against him, and Kuhn had denied it was true, when the inquisitor demanded: "Then why did they indict you?" "I don't know—yet," Kuhn replied.

Kuhn gave his occupation as president of the bund, said his home was at 248 East Eighty-seventh Street and that he was born in Munich, Germany. He has been living in this country for fourteen years, Kuhn added. Answering a question whether he had "any other occupation," Kuhn said he is a chemical engineer, and the last place he worked as such was at the Ford Motor Company's plant on the Rouge River, Dearborn. He also said he never had been arrested before.

As Kuhn was being put back in the patrol wagon to be taken to General Sessions, a group of about 100 men and women assembled at the entrance to police headquarters to view the prisoner. Kuhn was smiling, but when somebody in a raucous voice shouted in German: "Hello, Fritz, how's Hitler?" Kuhn's smile vanished into a frown.

His arraignment on the indictment took less than two minutes. His not guilty plea had been entered before Judge Collins and Assistant District Attorney Severance had asked the bail be fixed at \$5,000, when Mr. Kalendarian, his lawyer, began a protest for lower bail.

Kuhn meanwhile was running the fingers of his right hand through the court Bible, which rested on the rail before him. Judge Collins speedily put an end to the argument, however, when he told Mr. Kalendarian that he considered the \$5,000 bail suggested by the prosecutor "modest" and indicated that, had it not been suggested, he would have made the bail much higher. He will hear motions in the case on Wednesday.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Kuhn in Seclusion, Prepares Defense

Released in \$5,000 bail after six hours in the Tombs, Fritz Kuhn went into seclusion today to prepare his defense to the charges that he stole \$14,548 from his German-American Bund.

The Yorkville "Fuehrer," who had promised a full statement last night in answer to the indictment which charges him with grand larceny and forgery, apparently had been advised that silence is golden.

For there was no sign of a statement from the 43-year-old Bund leader, nor much likelihood of one. At Bund headquarters, 178 E. 85th st., it was said Kuhn "would have nothing to say."

MAP STRATEGY.

Kuhn's lawyer, Vohan H. Kalendarian, has until Wednesday to make any motions to General Sessions Judge Cornelius F. Collins.

It was reported the Bund leader and his attorney would engage in a series of heavy conferences during the week-end to map out the defense strategy.

The release from the Tombs was effected at 5:30 last evening after Kuhn had fumed and fretted, had been heckled by other prisoners, and had been subjected to a luncheon of bread, potatoes and fish, which he loathes.

A short stocky man in a brown suit and a brunette played a prominent part in the raising of the bail, which was no easy matter.

According to the best information, it appears Kuhn was able to get together about \$2,500 of his own money and that the other half was raised either by contributions or as a gift to the cause by some bundsman.

The money, in bills of \$5, \$10 and \$20 denominations, was brought in a sack by Kalendarian and Gustave Elmer, a national organizer of the Bund. It took about an hour for Warden William Adams to count it. When reporters asked Elmer how the money was raised, he replied:

"Someone was kind enough..."

At that point the lawyer cut him off.

WAIT IN AUTO.

The unidentified man and woman who had called at the Tombs office earlier, inquiring about bail, were waiting outside in an automobile. The woman left it and strolled up Lafayette st. just before Kuhn emerged. The man started the motor running.

As soon as Kuhn and his attendants were in the car, it started off and stopped at Leonard and Lafayette sts. to pick up the woman.

Kuhn was arrested Thursday afternoon in the hamlet of Krumsville, Pa., 125 miles from New York, by detectives from Dewey's office who had been trailing him for ten days.

An extra guard of detectives, about 35 men in all from the maritime and alien squads, was at the W. 46th st. pier when the North German Lloyd liner Bremen sailed early today for Europe. There were also a group of Federal men.

They denied, however, the suggestion that their presence there had anything to do with Kuhn.

Clipping from
NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL-AMERICAN

DATE: MAY 27 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

PREPARES TO FIGHT BUND THEFT CHARGE

**Aide Asserts 'Little Fuehrer'
'Had Right' to Use \$14,548;
Romance Reported Called Off**

At liberty under \$5,000 cash bail, Fritz Kuhn, "Little Fuehrer" of the German-American Bund, conferred with counsel yesterday on legal moves he plans to make in an effort to quash the charge that he looted the Bund treasury of \$14,548.

While Kuhn remained tight-lipped, and apparently little concerned by the charge, Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, one of Kuhn's trusted lieutenants in the Bund, scoffed at the embezzlement charge. Kunze addressing 400 members of the Bund in Chicago, said:

"Kuhn has a right to do as he pleases or sees fit with money turned over to him."

Kuhn was on his way to the Bund meeting in Chicago to make a speech when he was seized in Pennsylvania by New York detectives. He waived extradition.

GREETED BY BRUNETTE.

An attractive brunette friend of Kuhn, who greeted him on his release from the Tombs, disappeared after driving away in a car with him and his counsel.

Mrs. Florence Camp, divorced wife of a wealthy Long Beach, Cal. oil man, moving of whose furniture Kuhn is alleged to have financed with funds belonging to the Bund, was believed by relatives to be in the East.

According to his indictment, Kuhn "is infatuated" with Mrs. Camp.

SAYS ROMANCE ENDED.

Mrs. Camp's brother, Newton Todd, Long Beach attorney said:

"There was a romance between them, but it has been off now for several months."

Mrs. Camp's divorced husband, Charles W. Camp, said he knew nothing about the reported romance between his former wife and Kuhn.

He said, however, he understood that Mrs. Camp had met Kuhn on shipboard while returning from England several months before the Camps' divorce.

Kuhn has until Wednesday to file motions in his case.

Clipping from
NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL-AMERICAN

DATE: _____

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

Investigate Kuhn's Use of the Mails

The Government stepped into the midst of German-American Bund leader Fritz Kuhn's muddled money, blonde, brunette and wife troubles yesterday and sought to ascertain if there are any illegalities in the way he mails his official propaganda organ, the Weckruf und Beobachter. According to the usually well informed The Hour, a patriotic, non-profit-operated news publication, J. Edgar Hoover's G-Men and Post Office inspectors are checking to see if the American fuhrer took advantage of second class mailing privileges in such a way that the Government lost thousands of dollars in revenue last year.

"The Bund," according to The Hour, "beats the law by shipping its papers to the part of the country to which they are destined by trucks. But the Government has already taken steps to halt what practically amounts to a Federal subsidy of Hitler's American agents; it set Federal agents to work on a broad investigation of the Bund's practice..."

Kuhn is at liberty on \$5,000 bail posted Friday after an attractive mystery brunette interceded in his behalf when he had spent six hours in Cell 527, in Tombs Prison, as a result of his indictment for the alleged theft of \$14,548.59 from Bund funds.

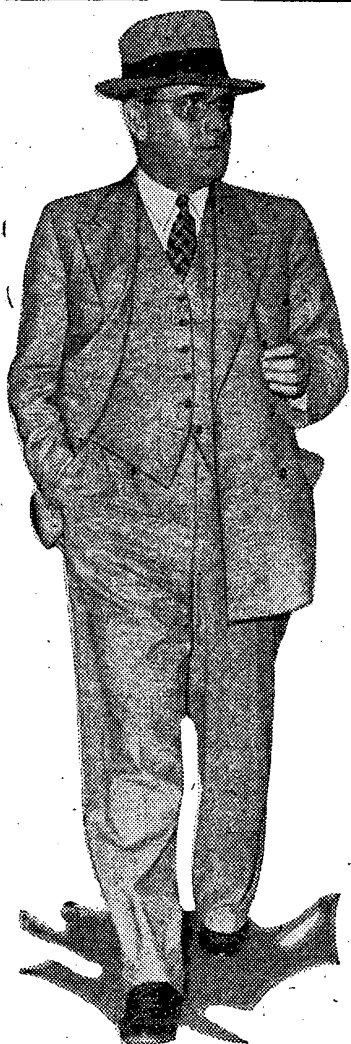
The indictment set forth that Kuhn "was infatuated with a blonde." It did not set forth whether this blonde was Mrs. Florence Camp, divorced wife of a California oil operator, but said that part of the allegedly diverted funds were used in bringing her and her belongings here.

This latter phase, too, is under investigation by G-Men, who have carefully inspected the indictment drawn up by District Attorney Dewey.

Anent the G-Men's activities, The Hour had this to say:

"If the question occurs as to what Kuhn might have done with the monies with the theft of which he is charged, a partial answer may be found in his pending divorce and other marital difficulties. The big blonde with whom he has been seeing the sights may be able to answer some of the official queries."

He's Troubled



FRITZ KUHN.

Missing from his Bund haunts as Uncle Sam added more worry.

(Other photos on Page One)

CLIPPING FROM

NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR

DATE. MAY 20 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

Kuhn, Out on Bail, Speaks Before Milwaukee Bund

Passes 5 Pickets to Appear at Pro-American Rally

MILWAUKEE, May 27 (UP).—Fritz Kuhn, national leader of the German-American Bund, who is at liberty under \$5,000 bond on forgery and grand larceny charges, appeared tonight at a "pro-American" rally of the Bund and was greeted with an ovation by 1,000 of his followers.

He entered the Milwaukee auditorium almost unnoticed until he was recognized by newspaper men. He had passed five pickets before he was recognized.

Inside the hall, Kuhn was led backstage where he remained until he was introduced to the audience by George Froboese, Middle West leader of the Bund, as the man who "got safely across the Jewish line and landed in America."

Before he was introduced, the audience heard speeches by Col. B. G. Blackey, former Surgeon General of the United States, and Chief New Moon of the Cherokee Indian tribe.

There was no violence and no evidence of Nazi emblems or symbols in the meeting hall. Bund members, who at previous meetings had appeared wearing gray uniforms, O. D. (Ordnungs Dienst) armbands and overseas caps, appeared tonight in cordons flanking the aisles of the hall, clad only in their gray uniform shirts and blue uniform trousers.

CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE.

DATE. MAY 28 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

Kuhn Against (Sh!) Dewey

Grafton, Wis., May 28 (U.P.)—Fritz Kuhn, national leader of the German-American Bund, told interviewers today he believed



(A. P. Wirefoto).
Fritz Kuhn (right) at Bund meeting in Milwaukee.

President Roosevelt might run for a third term, but said "we don't hope" he will be re-elected.

Kuhn, who was arrested Thursday by agents of District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey of New York City on charges of stealing Bund funds, said he also hoped Dewey would not be elected president.

George Froboese, mid-west director of the Bund, asserted: "We are against the Roosevelt Administration because it is under the influence of Jews."

CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS.

DATE. MAY 29 1939
FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

Kuhn Attacks F. D. and Dewey, Hopes Both Are Defeated in '40

Grafton, Wis., May 29 (U.P.)—Fritz Kuhn, head of the German-American Bund, dedicating a Bund camp here, attacked President Roosevelt and District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey of New York City and declared he hopes both would be defeated if they seek the presidency next year.

He said he believed Roosevelt would seek a third term. After his speech he left for Chicago. He said he would return to New York soon to make plans for a mass meeting to protest "persecution of the Bund." He was released in \$5,000 bail at New York Thursday after his arrest on a charge of embezzling \$14,548 from the Bund.

George Froboese, Mid-West director, who accompanied him to the dedication, said the Bund was against the Roosevelt Administration because it "is under the influence of Jews." He said the Bund

was opposed to Dewey for similar reasons.

"Ten members of Dewey's staff are Communists," he said.

Kuhn did not refer to his arrests during his dedicatory speech. However, he had charged Saturday night in a speech at Milwaukee that he was being "persecuted," because Dewey was ambitious for the presidency and needed the Jewish vote to be elected.

He denied in his address here last night that military drills were conducted at Bund camps and said the purpose of the camps was to "provide recreation." He said enemies of the Bund "have accused us of getting money even from Germany to finance the Bund activities."

He urged his followers to "hold on to the camps and fight against any attempt to have them taken from you. Our enemies cannot kill the spirit of the Bund."

Clipping from
BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE

DATE: **MAY 29 1939**

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

KUHN IN MID-WEST DENOUNCES F. D. R.

Bund Leader Also Attacks Dewey, Saying Prosecutor Seeks Jewish Vote

GRAFTON, Wis., May 29 (UP).—Fritz Kuhn, head of the German-American Bund, attacked President Roosevelt and District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey of New York City last night and said he hoped both would be defeated if they seek the Presidency next year.

He said he believed Roosevelt would seek a third term. He spoke at the dedication of a Bund camp.

After his speech Kuhn left for Chicago. He said he would return to New York soon to make plans for a mass meeting to protest "persecution of the Bund." He was released on bond in New York Thursday after his arrest on a charge of embezzling \$14,548 from the Bund.

George Froboese, Mid-West director, who accompanied him to the dedication, said the Bund was against the Roosevelt Administration because it "is under the influence of Jews." He said the Bund was opposed to Dewey for similar reasons.

"Ten members of Dewey's staff are Communists," he said.

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He denied last night that military drills were conducted at Bund camps and said the purpose of the camps was to provide recreation. He said enemies of the bund "have accused us of getting money even

KUHN ASSOCIATE



MRS. FLORENCE CAMP

Fritz Kuhn, fuhrer of the German American Bund, indignantly described Mrs. Camp as "my business" when reporters asked him about charges that he spent \$565.76 of his organization's money to move her furniture from Los Angeles. Kuhn, described by District Attorney Dewey as "just a common thief," who is married, appeared at the World's Fair two weeks ago with her.

from Germany to finance the Bund activities."

He urged his followers to "hold on to the camps and fight against any attempt to have them taken away from you. Our enemies cannot kill the spirit of the Bund."

Clipping from
NEW YORK POST

DATE: _____

MAY 29 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

Wife's Letter Tells Romances of Kuhn

By ARTHUR MEFFORD.

New evidence in possession of Federal and State authorities last night pictured Fritz Kuhn as a random lover who tossed off the old for the new with abandon.

Among the conquests of the portly German-American Bund leader, indicted last week by District Attorney Dewey as "a common thief," according to a letter written by his own wife, Elsa, was his capture of the heart of his best friend's wife.

Written in German aboard the S. S. Bremen three years ago, while Mrs. Kuhn, herself active in Bund circles, was accompanying her husband on a visit to Germany to attend the Olympic games and report to Adolf Hitler, the document vividly sets forth her heartache.

(Name deleted to protect the woman.)

"Dear Mr. R—: Once again I write you in good intention. All I want is to ask you to get your wife back and help me to wipe out this dirty matter. Imagine you, there are two children. Tomorrow, Walter will be nine years old.

My husband has no money to support your wife besides. The whole branch of the Bund at Detroit stands behind me. There will be a great scandal. I wait for your immediate answer. My



MRS. FLORENCE CAMP
Dewey says that part of the missing money was used to move her effects East.

address, Munich, Walhalla Str. 42.

"I don't want any more excuses from your wife; she has condemned herself. Besides, people did not like the 'secretary' of the Bund's head in Detroit. These people are not so dumb.

"It was I who protected your wife, in order to prevent any dirty talking. My husband had given me his word of honor that there would be only his family he cares for; that between him and Mrs. R— everything would be finished. He declared the same thing to his daughter Waltraut (then about 13), he was only in love with her mother.

"This is the truth. Now, act like a German man of honor on

behalf of our movement. I wait for your immediate answer.

Elsa Kuhn."

Since this letter was written three years ago, Kuhn and his wife have split because of his hectic blonde, brunette and redhead troubles—the redhead being a Detroit woman named Erma, who broke with him after her 12-

year-old son begged the Bund leader to marry her to avoid incipient disgrace.

Other records in possession of U. S. Attorney Cahill purport to show that Kuhn, then a German Army petty officer, was imprisoned in Germany.

After serving four months in jail, Kuhn's brother, a Munich City Magistrate, since become prosecuting attorney and a man of honor and influence, obtained his parole.

Kuhn, according to the official records, was given employment by a Jewish business man named Spitz, a lifelong friend of his family, was again accused and, to avoid further conflict with the law, emigrated to Mexico. This was in 1923.

Three or four years later, Kuhn, according to the authorities, went to Detroit, where he won the sympathies of the German colony by his story of having been robbed of his \$5,000 stock in a Mexico City jewelry store.

CLIPPING FROM

NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR

MAY 31 1939

DATE.

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

Turned to Bund

For a time Kuhn was active in the affairs of the Friends of Nature Club, a Detroit German Society not particularly friendly to the Nazi German Government, but switched his affiliation to the Bund when a member obtained for him a job as an X-ray plate developer in Ford Hospital.

The Federal authorities are particularly interested in the strapping Bund leader's failure to reveal all the facts of his past to the Detroit Naturalization Bureau when he took out citizenship papers in 1934.

Federal agents are also investigating the disappearance of a Bund-owned automobile which was borrowed by the usually jocular leader.

Kuhn, according to information given to authorities by Detroit Bundsmen, took a leave of absence and drove the car to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland and Seattle.

Returns Sans Car

It was on this trip that Kuhn became acquainted with Mrs. Florence Camp, blond grass-widow of a once-rich California oil operator. It was alleged in Dewey's indictment of Kuhn last week that part of the 14,548 he is accused of stealing from Bund funds was used to move Mrs. Camp's belongings here from Los Angeles and thence to Cleveland.

Kuhn, according to Detroit Bundsmen, returned from the Western trip by train. Asked what

he had done with the Bund car, he was quoted:

"I had a very narrow escape. Driving along the Pacific Coast something went wrong with the steering gear and the car suddenly went over the cliff, falling hundreds of feet down on the rocks. It was completely demolished."

Several Detroit Bundsmen no-



MR. AND MRS. FRITZ KUHN
In 1932, they spent Summer days at Lake Huron.

ticed Kuhn bore not a scratch and pointedly called this to his attention. They said they made inquiries and found the California, Oregon and Washington authorities had no record of such an accident.

Kuhn was confronted again and one Bundsman, named Ebert, who

had already sued Kuhn through a lawyer named Mandell and held an unsatisfied judgment, flatly called him a "liar."

However, there were no formal charges made against him at that time and Kuhn severed his Detroit connections and came to New York, leaving his wife and family stranded there, according to let- and which have been read by the authorities.

Meanwhile, Post Office inspec-

tors are continuing their investigation of Kuhn's distribution of his official Bund organ, the *Weekend Beobachter*, which is printed in Philadelphia, but allegedly shipped in trucks to the West Coast in violation of the provisions under which it was granted 2d class mailing privileges.

Kuhn, out on \$5,000 bail in the Dewey 12-count indictment charging grand larceny and fer-

gery, told Milwaukee Bundsmen at a weekend rally that he would resign if they believe Dewey's charges. However, he was roundly cheered.

#

Kuhn Says Press Persecutes Him, Sees Plot Behind Larceny Charge

Fritz Kuhn, "Fuehrer" of the German-American Bund, free in \$5,000 bail pending trial on charges of embezzling \$14,548.59 of his pro-Nazi organization's funds, maintained his innocence of any wrongdoing yesterday in a prepared statement picturing himself as the victim of political persecution and the misuse of law.

The statement, issued from the Bund offices at 178 East Eighty-fifth Street, coincided with the denial by Judge Cornelius F. Collins in General Sessions of the Bund head's motions to examine the minutes of the grand jury which indicted him on May 25 on twelve counts of first and second degree grand larceny and forgery. His trial is not expected before fall.

Charging that the bund's campaign to stamp out Communism in America had been so successful that his enemies had become desperate in their attempts to cripple him, Kuhn said that no previous investigation of the bund or himself had revealed any dishonorable or treasonable acts. He was, he said, a victim of press persecution.

"It is perfectly clear to me," asserted the bund head, "that no means will be eschewed by our opponents to eliminate me, and, that not being possible in a lawful manner, the press is beginning to make use of the basest weapons conceivable to morally destroy me, to blacken my good name.

"I also am aware, however, that all upright and honest citizens of every race and creed realize that I am being persecuted and defamed because I am the leader of the German-American Bund, and that it will not be long before the growing number of similarly outspoken and courageous patriotic organizations will be treated in the same manner.

"The hundreds of encouraging letters reaching me are proof of the rapidly growing appreciation of the meaning of the vicious attacks to which I am being subjected. I am not dreaming of running. On the contrary, I shall fight for my rights and shall carry this struggle against all subversive elements forward as never before, until a truly free America is achieved."

The forty-four-year-old leader of an organization said to number about 10,000 members reiterated his assertion that District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey's detectives stole \$1,380 from his desk when they raided his office on May 2. Those methods of search and seizure were unlawful, he contended, as was the "violation" of his home by agents of Mr. Dewey, who has called Kuhn "just a common thief."

Kuhn denied that he was fleeing when Mr. Dewey's detectives arrested him in a Pennsylvania village 125 miles from New York on the day of his indictment, following his refusal to testify before the grand jury. He said the District Attorney knew he was motoring to Chicago with three friends to speak at a bund rally.

"The reports indicating an indicated get-away on my part are, therefore, inspired untruths, affording the reader an excellent and inside idea into the workings of the smearing campaign again in progress against me.

"As regard the charges, I declare,

on my word of honor, that I am innocent. Does this action against me represent a persecution, the explanation of which must be looked for in the field of politics?

"First, all moneys collected, and which were turned over to me will be duly accounted for.

"Second, I have not spent a single cent of the bund's money in any manner other than authorized by the national convention of the bund.

"Third, the absurd statements of some of the newspapers to the effect that I have been planning a divorce, or even a separation from my family are so ridiculous as not to require either a denial or explanation from me.

"Fourth, contrary to public statements, I have never in my life undertaken any unlawful activity and have never, in this country, in Germany, or elsewhere, been in conflict with the authorities."

CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE.
JUN 3 - 1939

DATE. _____

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

Moseley Heiled At Bund Meeting

(Special to The News)

Andover, N. J., June 4.—The name of Gen. George Van Horn Moseley was cheered and that of District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey of New York booed when Fritz Kuhn, leader of the German-American Bund, addressed more than 500 New Jersey members of the Bund at Camp Nordland here today.

Kuhn, now awaiting trial in New York on an indictment charging grand larceny of Bund funds, said he was the victim of a frame-up and that he would fight the case to the end.

Storm Troopers in the regular black and gray uniforms, heiled their approval when William Kunze, publicity director of the Bund, said the proposed New Jersey law banning the Bund uniform was "obviously discriminatory."

CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS.

DATE. **JUN 6 - 1939**

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

~~FRITZ KUHN TALKS~~
500 at Andover, N. J. Camp
Hear His Frame-up Plea.

Fritz Kuhn, leader of the German-American Bund, now awaiting trial in Manhattan on an indictment charging grand larceny, spoke yesterday to more than 500 men and women members of the bund assembled at Camp Nordland, Andover, N. J. Speaking in German, he told the group of the activities of the bund and explained that twenty-one camps were now operating throughout the country. A new unit, he said, would open in Rockland county soon.

Kuhn briefly discussed his arrest on the New York charge and declared that he had waited in his New York office for a call from authorities after he had learned action was being taken against him. "They didn't have to chase me," he declared.

Insisting upon his innocence of the charge which accuses him of appropriating funds from the bund to his own use, Kuhn said that he was the victim of a frame-up and indicated that he would fight the case to the end.

William Kunze, director of public relations for the bund, also addressed the group in German. He assailed the proposed legislation which would make it illegal for organizations such as the bund to meet in uniforms. He described the proposed measure as "discriminating against the bund."

CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK SUN **JUN 5 - 1939**
DATE _____

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

Post Office Box #2544
Boston, Massachusetts

June 5, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

RE: FRITZ KUHN
PERJURY; IMMIGRATION; NATURALIZATION

[redacted] Amherst, Massachusetts, was interviewed on May 27, 1939 by Special Agent [redacted] advised that he had entered the United States in 1933 and is now a citizen of this country; that prior thereto he had resided in Munich where he followed the legal profession; that he has never been personally acquainted with FRITZ KUHN, or any member of that family; that he has no recollection of the crime for which KUHN was convicted in Munich and does not recall ever hearing about it; that the first he knew of the matter was when he read an item in the New York Times dated May 9, 1939.

[redacted] advised that he is acquainted with the SPITZ family, and that one member of this family resides in New York City at the present time and that SPITZ might be able to furnish information relative to FRITZ KUHN.

[redacted] exhibited the newspaper clipping to Agent, and it was observed that SPITZ had executed an affidavit relative to the matter and therefore no lead is being set out to interview SPITZ.

[redacted] appeared to be very interested in aiding in this matter and advised that in the event further information was desired, he would be able to correspond with acquaintances in Munich and ascertain the details relative to the arrest of KUHN. In the event it is desired that [redacted] contact his acquaintances in Munich, the Boston Field Division should be requested to again contact him.

WHH:A
74-9

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

Very truly yours,

61-7594-29
J. G. PETERSON, Special Agent in Charge
JUN 12 1939
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

6-10 1939

35243

<input type="checkbox"/> The Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Files Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Nathan	<input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Files
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Tolson	<input type="checkbox"/> Identification Division
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Clegg	<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Laboratory
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Foxworth	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Section
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Glavin	<input type="checkbox"/> Chief Clerk's Office
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Nichols	<input type="checkbox"/> Crime Statistics
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Crowl	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Tracy

SUPERVISORS

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Correct
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Communications ✓

Done *RUB*

Mail

Q

b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

6/22 1939

___ The Director
___ Mr. Nathan
___ Mr. Tolson
___ Mr. Clegg
___ Mr. Foxworth
___ Mr. Glavin
___ Mr. Nichols
___ Mr. Crowl

___ Files Section
___ Personnel Files
___ Identification Division
___ Technical Laboratory
___ Mechanical Section
___ Chief Clerk's Office
___ Crime Statistics
___ Mr. Tracy

SUPERVISORS

___ Miss Gandy

___ Typists - 5724
___ Typists - 5236
___ See Me

___ Bring file up to date
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___ Call me regarding this
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___ Stenographers 5706
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b7C

E. A. TAMM - 5734.

EAT:DM

61-7594-29X

June 8, 1939

RECORDED
Special Agent in Charge
Detroit, Michigan

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION JUN 12 1939 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith copies of a letter addressed to the Attorney General under date of June 1, 1939, by [redacted] together with a copy of the Attorney General's reply.

b7C

For your information, the Bureau several weeks ago requested the State Department to endeavor to verify the reported conviction of Fritz Kuhn in Germany but to date a substantiation or affirmation of this conviction has not been obtained. In view, however, of the statement of [redacted] that a number of persons now residing in the United States will appear to testify concerning this conviction, I desire that you have a Special Agent call upon [redacted] immediately upon the receipt of this letter in your office and obtain all the facts in his possession. The information obtained from [redacted] should be transmitted immediately to the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

EAT:DM

61-7594-29X

June 9, 1938.

35233

RECORDED



b7C

My dear



I have received your letter of June 1, 1938, concerning the alleged conviction in 1932 in Munich of Fritz Luha and appreciate your courtesy in furnishing this information to me. I am, of course, interested in learning the identity of the persons now in the United States who are able to testify to this conviction and I have accordingly requested Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to have a Special Agent from the Detroit office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation call upon you in order to obtain all details of the information in your possession. You may be assured that I appreciate your courtesy in transmitting this material to me.

Sincerely yours,

Attorney General.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy



Bureau

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

JUN 9 12 37 PM '38
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE



DO-7

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

Mr. Tolson	()	35240
Mr. Nathan	()	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	()	
Mr. Clegg	()	
Mr. Coffey	()	
Mr. Crowl	()	G. G. wants facts on this. Also prepare letter of acknowledgment H.
Mr. Egan	()	
Mr. Foxworth	()	
Mr. Glavin	()	
Mr. Harbo	()	
Mr. Lester	()	
Mr. McIntire	()	
Mr. Nichols	()	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	()	
Mr. Tracy	()	
Secretary	()	
See Me	()	
Prepare Reply	()	
For Your Information	()	
Note and Return	()	
File	()	

Remarks:

Attorney General forward letter from [redacted]

b7C

[redacted] advising

he has rec'd information to effect that Fritz Kuhn was guilty of having feloniously entered and stolen from the University of Munich certain platinum crucibles and other articles. This being true, Kuhn was guilty of perjury at time he rec'd American citizenship papers by stating he had never been guilty of committing a crime. Therefore he would be deportable.

rc1

AG notes: "Hoover - Acknowledge - investigate."

35241

COPY

(Hoover
Acknowledge
Investigate FM)
The Honorable Frank Murphy
Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

RECORDED
June 1, 1939
INDEXED

35272
-7544-27X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 14 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ONE

My dear Governor:

b7C

I have recently come into some information through one of my colleagues which I think you should have. The information relates to Fritz Kuhn, now under indictment in New York State, but the information deals this time with a matter which appears to me to come within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government rather than the State of New York.

The information is that in 1922 one Fritz Kuhn was found guilty of a charge equivalent to burglary, having feloniously entered the chemistry laboratory of the University of Munich and stolen therefrom some platinum crucibles and several other articles. These articles were found in his domicile and he was sentenced to a jail term of three months. If this is true, and of course it is subject to investigation in order to establish its authenticity, then Fritz Kuhn committed perjury when he swore upon receiving his American citizenship papers that he had never committed a crime. If this follows, then under the decisions of the Federal courts, he never has had American citizenship and would therefore be subject to deportation.

I am informed that there are people in the United States who, if properly protected, would make depositions to the effect that Fritz Kuhn was so convicted in Munich. It might still be possible to get, through the American Consul in Munich, a record of this conviction, if it has not already been destroyed.

In other words, here is some highly interesting information which I thought you should possess so that you may take whatever action is necessary. If the committing of this crime cannot be corroborated through police records in Munich, I am informed that it can be established through reputable persons now in this country, who would be glad to testify provided they were properly protected, this proviso being due to the fact that they still have relatives in Germany. In any case, I am passing the information on to you as a matter of duty and interest for whatever action you may see fit to take.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JEL:TD - 3:50 P.M. June 5, 1939

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Nathan	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Crowl	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. McIntire	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E.A.TAMM

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[redacted] of the State Department, called and stated that in connection with your request for the status of the obtaining of the criminal record of FRITZ KUHN he wanted to advise us that an employee of the State Department had received a personal letter from a member of the American Embassy at Munich to the effect that they are putting all pressure possible upon the obtaining of this criminal record of Kuhn at the University of Munich and the police department and they are having a careful check made of all press dispatches for this purpose. [redacted] related that to date they had not been successful in obtaining any substantiation of the alleged criminal record of Kuhn, but that he was certain in the event the same was obtained the American Embassy at Munich would telegraphically advise, at which time it would be immediately brought to the attention of the Bureau.

Respectfully,

[redacted]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 10 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON

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New York, New York

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61-7594-30X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
June 9, 1939
JUN 12 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ONE [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge
Detroit, Michigan

RE: FRITZ KUHN, PERJURY, EMIGRATION,
NATURALIZATION

35236

Dear Sir:

Efforts by this office to obtain information concerning an alleged and possible violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft act by FRITZ KUHN while he was the leader of the German-American Bund in Detroit, Michigan, have to date proved unsuccessful.

b7C

Inquiries made through two different sources, one through [redacted]

[redacted] the American-Jewish Committee, have indicated that information concerning KUHN is in the possession of a woman in Detroit. However, from neither of these sources has it been possible to obtain the name of this woman, assuming of course that both are referring to the same individual.

The story about the particular automobile involved has been rumored for two or three years. As originally heard by Special Agent [redacted] of this office in 1936, it was to the effect that KUHN had received a gift of an automobile from the organization, German-American Bund and had gone on a tour of the West in this automobile, returning without the car. It is alleged that he sold the car, thereby violating the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act.

While this letter was being dictated, Agent [redacted] received information from [redacted] to the effect that this is alleged to have occurred about September or November of 1936; that the trip started in Detroit and the car was supposed to have been wrecked in Nebraska, according to the story told by KUHN. [redacted] informant, however, indicated a belief that the car was sold in Nebraska. It is expected that further information regarding this matter will be received on June 10, 1939.

Letter to SAC, Detroit

June 9, 1939

35237

However, it is suggested that, if the Detroit Office has any source through which information concerning KUHN'S activities can be obtained, inquiries be made to ascertain the circumstances surrounding this matter to ascertain whether or not there may be a violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act.

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A copy of this letter has been furnished to the Chicago Office with the request that [redacted] be interviewed to ascertain if he has any knowledge regarding this alleged violation of the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act by FRITZ KUHN.

In connection with this inquiry, it should be noted that while there is no indication or allegation to the effect that the car was obtained by KUHN by any irregular or improper means and that it would appear that he had a perfect right to use the car, the Bureau nevertheless desires that a thorough investigation be made so that the facts may be presented to the proper United States Attorneys for their opinion as to whether prosecution will be initiated.

Very truly yours,

cc - Bureau ✓
cc - Chicago

DWIGHT BRANTLEY
Special Agent in Charge