

Message to Anti-Nazi Rally Predicts They Will Fight to the Last Man

URGES U. S. LEADERSHIP

Says Liberty-Loving People of World Await It—Plea Made for Boycott

Asserting that the liberty-loving people of the world are looking to America for leadership, Dr. Eduard Benes, former president of Czechoslovakia, predicted last night that his fellow countrymen would rise and fight to the last man to regain their independence, once they were assured of the support of world democracy.

Dr. Benes's message was read at a mass meeting at the Hippodrome under the auspices of the Volunteer Christian Committee to Boycott Nazi Germany. The rally was attended by 1,100 persons. Dr. William Jay Scheffelin acted as chairman and the other speakers included Dr. Clark M. Eichelberger, director of the League of Nations Association; Dr. Robert T. Searle, secretary of the Greater New York Federation of Churches, and Christopher T. Emmett, secretary of the Volunteer Christian Committee.

Matthew Woll, vice president of the American Federation of Labor, was unable to attend because of a cold, but the speech he had prepared was read for him. Others who spoke were Dr. Guy Emory Sipler, editor of *The Churchman*; ex-Justice William Harman Black, Gustave Strebel, secretary of the State council of the Congress of Industrial Organizations; Walter Mueller of the German-American League for Culture and Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress.

Man Causes an Uproar

As the meeting was drawing to a close with the offering of a resolution urging the furtherings of the boycott, Dr. Charles S. Weiss, editor of a periodical named *Uncle Sam*, published by the Brooklyn Anti-Nazi, Anti-Fascist, Anti-Communist League, precipitated an angry turmoil by rising from his seat in the second row and pleading with the audience not to adopt the resolution.

"Speaking as one who has had half a swastika cut into his body by the Nazis, and has been crucified by them, I tell you that nothing has done more to intensify anti-Semitism than the use of the boycott as a weapon," he declared.

His words brought several scores of men and women pressing angrily about him, shouting "He's a Nazi," "Throw him out," "Beat him up." Several women spat at him, but no actual violence was done to him in the five or six minutes the uproar lasted. Dr. Schieffelin pleaded with the audience against violence and the scene was finally ended when half a dozen policemen broke up the knot of angry people about Dr. Weiss and escorted him from the hall.

The dictatorial Nazi regime is already waging war against the democracies, a war that is engaging the entire civilized world, Dr. Benes said in his message. Everywhere the forces of might are imposing their will on free men, he declared.

"I am not suggesting that we meet brute force with force of arms, but I am remembering that through all history brute force has always gone down to defeat when challenged by spiritual force," the former Czecho-Slovak President declared. "I am pleading that the forces of democracy, freedom and decency shall give combat to the forces which have already ranged themselves on the other side.

"I am appealing to those men who love liberty to rise in their strength and declare that the end has been reached. There are methods short of actual bloodshed which should prove effective. I advocate such methods, and I stand with those who are organizing themselves into a solid phalanx to stop war."

Dr. Benes said that his people had made great sacrifices because they had been assured that by doing so they would have European peace, but that instead "the unsatisfied aggressor has continued his march and has annexed my country without regard to his pledged word." He said that the avowed goal of Nazi Germany was "the extension of its rule all over the world."

"Temporarily, the republic of Czecho-Slovakia has been annexed," he said. "Temporarily, I say, because I know my people, and I understand that the spirit of freedom is not dead. At the right moment you will see that this is true.

"In the meantime, the liberty-loving people of Czecho-Slovakia and of the world look to America for leadership. The support of world democracy will give us the possibility to rise again and to declare our independence—and we will fight for that to the last man, if necessary."

Schieffelin Urges Boycott

Dr. Schieffelin told the gathering that "the best and almost the only way to defend ourselves against barter, bunds, export subsidies and subsidized propaganda is through the boycott, or an embargo." He declared that half of every dollar spent for German goods or services goes to the Nazi Government.

Rabbi Wise said that as an American Jew he was joyful at the formation of the Volunteer Christian Committee to Boycott Nazi Germany, although he regretted that it had not been organized six years ago. He said that the boycott was in essence a moral rather than an economic weapon.

Mr. Woll's address, which was read for him, compared Hitler to "a common highway robber" and said that if the democracies are to save themselves they "must swiftly abandon negotiations and act on the basis of a strong and dominating moral offensive." He promised that labor "would stand four-square with the nation to stop the Hitler threat."

A vigorous three-fold policy by the United States was urged by Mr. Eichelberger. He declared that we should take our stand on a program of opposing aggression, promoting justice between nations, and developing adequate peace machinery. He warned that every victory for Hitler "lessens the possibility of resisting his aggression by means short of war."