SUBJECT:

With reference to the campaign against so-called "Muckertum" or middle class bigotry.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor briefly in this despatch to bring to the attention of the Department an interesting phase of the German revolution which takes the form of a campaign against so-called "Muckertum" or middle class bigotry.

One of the outstanding features of the present revolution in Germany is the constant reference in speeches and in the press to the new type of German whom this revolution will create and who is destined not only to regenerate Germany, but who is to extend his influence and domination over the world. It would be impossible within the compass of this despatch to cover all the phases which these declarations present, but it is sufficient to say that the Chancellor, Mr. Hitler, has set the pace in this matter, and he is followed closely by Dr. Goebbels and all the higher and lower leaders of the party who become lyrical over the new German. The new German is to be of pure Nordic race.
race without any intermixture, as the Nordic race is the
superior. The new German will be brave and hardy. He will
be honest. Even the lowest laborer will be educated. A new
type of culture is to be developed which shall be entirely
German in character, pure and unadulterated by any outside
elements. The German woman is to become a model mother. She
is to undergo special preparation for motherhood and for
filling her place in the household. No one shall be permitted
to marry until after the most careful and complete physical
and mental tests. Women particularly shall undergo a special
period of training, and in a recent declaration it is pro-
posed that any woman eligible for marriage and motherhood
shall receive a period of training on a farm. The children
of these mothers shall from almost the earliest infancy
be given special training which will make them hardy and
resistant citizens. The Chancellor himself has declared that
it is better to have 600,000 hardy infants survive out of a
million, than to have a million of the type now produced.
Purity of morals and absolute cleanliness in business and
finance are to be a significant feature of the new Germany.
One reads constantly serious declarations by some of the
outstanding men on "the ehmbare Kaufmann", i.e. the honor-
able business man, as though this were a new feature in the
world and a creature which had heretofore not existed any-
where.

For a person who lives in Germany and who has retained
any objectivity, and especially for the foreigners, these
lyrical declarations and articles create an extraordinary
impression. These expressions contain elements of unreality
and
and of absurdity which give one the impression of living in an unreal world. These declarations and the vague striving for the new German and a new Germany, are perhaps one of the best indications of the elements of instability in the present Government and party. It is a movement based on propaganda, spectacles and insincerity, and it is inconceivable that for an indefinite period the 65 million people in Germany will endure it. It is not too much to say that the German people are for the present hypnotized and terrorized into a mentality which cannot be anything but artificial and which is maintained by means which the most intelligent propagandists cannot indefinitely supply.

As one of the concrete evidences of this new mentality and propaganda the Department will be interested in the appended article which appeared in the "Berliner Tageblatt" of September 26, 1933, entitled "Against Middle Class Bigotry, an appeal of Chief of Staff Roehm". The article is so interesting and characteristic that I believe it is worth-while to give it in translation, as follows:

"The leader of the S.A., Roehm, has made a declaration against middle class bigotry. It is indisputable that this bigotry is celebrating orgies now. Silly orders are being issued about dress and behavior in bathing establishments. The German woman is not to smoke in public and not to powder. All entertainment establishments in large cities, which do not quite conform to the ideas of small bigots, are to be closed. All this takes place under the cloak of a feeling of responsibility for the good of the people. Recently it has happened that even S.A. and S.S. leaders and members have appointed themselves judges of morals and have molested women in the streets, restaurants and bathing establishments. It has to be stated once and for all definitely that the German revolution has not been won by APOSTLES OF NORMITY, SMALL TOWN BIGOTS AND BABBITTS, but by REVOLUTIONARY FIGHTERS. These
"alone can vouch for its continuance. It is not the task of the S.A. to watch over the dress, make up and chastity of others, but to lift up Germany by their free and revolutionary spirit of fighting. He forbids therefore to all S.A. and S.S. leaders and members to have anything to do with such activities or to be servants of eccentric moralists."

It may be interesting to set forth the background to this declaration. Obviously the German mother who is to bear the future new German, cannot use paint and powder, but must be a Spartan. Therefore on the streets in the smaller cities and towns S.A. men molested even the most respectable women whose appearance they did not like. In the larger cities such as Berlin women were not much molested, but I know from direct knowledge that American women living in the smaller cities and towns of Germany for a period no longer used any cosmetics and dressed very simply as they had had threatening glances on the streets. A young American woman of my acquaintance went to the flower market in Berlin to make her usual purchases for the household and she happened to have tinted finger nails which attracted the attention of an S.A. man in the market. He took her hand and examined it and began to deliver her a speech in threatening terms, but when he realized that she was a foreigner he did not molest her further. Articles began to appear in the papers against the use of cosmetics, etc. and notices appeared in restaurants and public places "The German Woman Does Not Smoke".

The movement was gaining such ground and arousing such ridicule that, as I learned from a well informed source, the Italian Ambassador brought the matter to the attention
attention of Mr. Hitler, saying that these absurd manifestations of the National-Socialist movement in Germany were bringing Fascism into ridicule before the world and that ridicule was a dangerous weapon. The declaration of Chief of Staff Roehm above quoted was the result of this action. The fact, too, that the cigarette and cosmetics industries in Germany did not fail to make themselves felt in this matter, had probably the principal effect in bringing about public declarations against so-called middle class bigotry. There is practically no importation of cigarettes and cosmetics into Germany, the very considerable quantities consumed being manufactured in the country. Even in the "new Germany" such material considerations had their influence.

In spite of declarations such as that by Roehm above quoted, the movement has by no means stopped and, as is so characteristic of other party attitudes, there is no unity in the party on the subject. There appeared in the "Berliner Tageblatt" of November 14 a declaration by Dr. Krummacher, leader of the National-Socialist women's organizations, which indicates that the fanatical women in the party are not at all satisfied with the attitude of the higher leaders in this so-called question of middle class bigotry.

The declaration read as follows:

"SUPPLEMENT TO THE BIGOTRY DECREES. Some time ago the chief of staff of the S.A., Roehm, has issued a decree against the middle class bigotry of S.A. men in trying to interfere with women using make up, or smoking. Now the leader of the National-Socialist women's organizations, Dr. Krummacher, has issued a statement commenting
"On the decree of Mr. Roehm, Dr. Krumwacher asks to interpret the decree of Roehm in such a way that it is of course not the privilege of the S.A. to interfere in matters relating to women. It is, however, the opinion of German men as well as of German women that women who pluck their eyebrows, use make up, dye their hair and try to attract attention by such eccentric manners as smoking and using powder, belong to an older generation, and that generation is on the wane. The hint that the younger generation - young in heart, not in years - refuses to do these things, will be very annoying to those women who do, and who by doing them want to appear younger. In reality, however, they belong to a disappearing, finished and superannuated philosophy. To be young means to be natural and to understand the requirements and the necessities of a great age."

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

Enclosure:
2 newspaper clippings.

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