

NAZI HUNTING

The American government's campaign against unprosecuted Nazi criminals in the U.S. seems back on the track. After much bureaucratic hem-and-haw, the Department of Justice finally set up a serious Office of Special Investigation last year, under the direction of Allan Ryan, a dedicated Nazi-hunter.

Ryan recently reported to an NJCRAC gathering from around the country. He did not try to kid anybody. He pointed out the difficulty of court cases dependent on witnesses identifying criminals and events which go back over 40 years. Under normal circumstances, no lawyer would attempt to go to court with a criminal case that old.

But Ryan was candid about his objectives. "We're going to try to nail everybody we can," he said. "But even when the chances seem dim, we're going to court with every case we can, push every case, publicize every case. My purpose, at the very least, is that no Nazi perpetrator in this country shall go to bed at night secure. He shall always fear a knock on the door."

Towards that end, the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) opened 456 files in this past year. Some have been closed -- but following "Ryan's Law," none of them has been closed just because evidence seems lacking, but only in cases of proven wrong identity. There are now 17 cases in active litigation.

The process is time-consuming. In the case of Mecis Paskevicius, the OSI achieved denaturalization, and then had to file a deportation order which will soon be heard. In the case of Vilis Hazners, an immigration judge denied a deportation order in February, finding insufficient evidence. OSI filed an

appeal to the Bureau of Immigration Appeals in March. The first argument was scheduled for September 4. In another case, that of Bronius Kaminskas, the defendant was ruled incapable of standing trial. OSI has appealed, and is re-examining the defendant.

The OSI made legal history last month by going to the Soviet Union to take depositions from witnesses in the case of Wolodymir Osidach. No American lawyer had ever done that before. The procedure was arduous. The depositions had to be video-taped. The cooperation of Soviet authorities had to be obtained. The defense attorney had to be forced to go, to be present at the depositions. The depositions were successfully executed, and the trial date has now been set.

Ironically, while this effort is going on, the long-standing effort of the lunatic fringe to state that the Holocaust never took place continues. The first attempt was a French book in 1964 which insisted that "only" a million and a half Jews were killed by Hitler. Then in 1969, there was *The Myth of the Six Million*, published by the Liberty Lobby, an anti-semitic enterprise which has existed for over 30 years. Then, of course, we were regaled in 1976 by *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century* by Arthur Butz, who concluded that "only" a million Jews perished. Then, in 1977, *The Six Million Reconsidered* was published anonymously with the same thesis. The ADL ascertained that the author was William Grimstad, one of the leaders of the KKK, and a registered agent for Saudi Arabia.

Nobody was paying much attention to all this, so the Liberty Lobby recently published something called *The Journal of Historical Review*, out of Torrance, California, offering 50 thousand dollars to anyone who could prove the Holocaust. Their hope was that someone would bite and give them a million dollars worth of continuing publicity through the media.

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For every Bay Area resident who has heard about this lunacy in the past year, there have been at least a half million Bay Area residents who have heard the truth about the Holocaust through the media and school efforts of the San Francisco Jewish community alone. The Liberty Lobby doesn't like those odds. But Allan Ryan Jr. would approve.

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