

*For filing Speech by P.
Saltzman at Hotel Diplomat
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Brothers and Sisters:

It is good to sit in this hall tonight and know that through a telephonic hookup we New York members of the IWO are gathered around a huge family table together with our brothers and sisters in twelve other cities. We can feel the strength and our brotherly determination to defend our beloved International Workers Order.

No, I should not say "defense". We are here to announce and discuss the counter-offensive we are launching against Tom Clark's unspeakable "disloyalty list", against the Thomas-Rankin Committee and the Treasury Department, which had the autocratic gall to remove our great and democratic fraternal order from the tax exemption list. Yes, history has taught us that you meet reactionary acts with counter-offensives, not with passive defense, hesitation or liberal phrases.

When we speak of the attacks on the Order we are speaking of fascism - nothing less. If the attacks are not answered and thrown back, if Clark and Mundt and Rankin have their way with the IWO and the other progressive organizations, the foul air of fascism will have begun to choke American democracy and the Bill of Rights to death. Make no mistake about that.

When I was in Poland a few months ago and stood before the levelled ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto my mind began to trace the ugly pattern which led to the devastation I saw before me, and to the murder of six million of my own people. And in my mind's eye I saw the great peoples of Europe, tortured, starved and burned to death by the nazis.

Yes, I saw the pattern as clear as day. I saw how it all started - and how much of the world stood by, failing to act in time.

What was that pattern?

Its first beginnings were expressed in the word "verboden."

First the nazi voices shouted: Communists - verboden. Then, socialists - verboden. Then, labor and progressive organizations - verboden. Free speech - verboden, free association - verboden. Voices for peace and democracy - verboden. And it grew and grew until only the monopolists and the storm-troopers were the only ones that were not verboden.

And now we see that same pattern developing in our own country. They are telling us: the IWO - verboden, tax-exemption for progressive organizations - verboden, freedom to join any democratic organization of your own choice - verboden.

And as a Jew I am especially sensitive to the full meaning of the word - verboden. My people know that the attack on the Order is an attack on them.

We know all too well the face of fascism - and all too well we know the meaning of fascism to the Jewish people.

I had the honor and privilege of being one of the founders of our Order.

When I look back at the eighteen years of work and service of the IWO I realize how hypocritical are those who would pin the label of "disloyal" upon the Order.

If you trace the story of the Order's activities and contributions you can see a record of which our members and of all liberty-loving Americans can be proud. No doubt Wall Street considers these activities "disloyal." Our historic contribution to the fight for social insurance - disloyal to Wall Street. Our consistent support to the cause of labor - disloyal to Wall Street. Our support to the Spanish Republic - disloyal to Wall Street. Our call to the American people before the war for a united struggle against fascism, which we warned would engulf the United States in a war - disloyal to Wall Street. Our contributions to the forging of unity among the national groups for support of the war effort under Franklin Delano Roosevelt - disloyal to Wall Street. The sacrifices made by hundreds of our members on the battlefronts in World War II - disloyal to Wall Street. And today, our effort to keep peace in the world, to support the establishment of a truly independent state of Israel, to win for the American people security, to fight jim-crow and anti-Semitism - all that is disloyal to Wall Street.

I challenge Mr. Clark, or the treasury department, to point to one act, one deed of the International Workers Order during its eighteen years of rich history to be "disloyal". Why, it is just the opposite. Our Order has distinguished itself in its devotion to democracy and the welfare of the American people. And Mr. Clark knows it. And that is why we are hailing him to court now challenging him to present facts, facts! - not Thomas-Rankin falsehoods.

But for the American people, and for the great democratic institutions built by them - the Order has not only been loyal but a most vigilant champion. No organization has won the right to the title American, in the best democratic sense of that term, with as much justice as has our multi-national, interracial International Workers Order.

That is why we are here tonight. We will mobilize our membership and leaders - for a fight that the enemies of democracy will never forget. We are going into court. We will mobilize our membership and our friends for mass action in defense of the Order. We call upon our members to help that fight by contributing to the defense fund of the IWO - for without the means we will be handicapped.

Yes, brothers and sisters, tonight we start our counter-offensive with the knowledge that our efforts will contribute to the great struggles now developing among the American people for peace and democracy. Again, in starting our mass

and legal fights in defense of the IWO, we are showing the highest loyalty to the American ideals of freedom and democracy.

We have confidence in our members. We have confidence in the American people. We know that our enemies will be defeated. No matter how hard the road, victory will be ours!