## "The San Diego Crack Pot"

Shivering like a nudist in a rumble seat and leaving a trail of bayfront water behind him, C. Leon De Aryan, editor of The Broom, appeared at the police station today charging that five longshoremen had thrown him into the bay off the Municipal pier.

--San Diego Sun, Nov. 24, 1936

Public hostility rarely bothered C. Leon de Aryan. The owner and publisher of the San Diego newspaper called *The Broom* craved attention of any kind and often received it from his provocative editorials denouncing organized labor, international bankers, Communists, Jews, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

San Diego's notorious dissenter was born in Romania in 1886. The son of a Greek father and a Polish mother, he was christened Constantine Leon Legenopol. After the death of his father, young Legenopol and his mother moved to Austria. At age nineteen, his mother placed him in an insane asylum but he was released after doctors in Vienna diagnosed his condition as "family persecution."

Legenopol trained as a civil engineer and worked on engineering projects for the British in Egypt and India before immigrating to America in 1912. He soon joined the U.S. Army but soldiering proved a poor career move and after a dishonorable discharge he fled to Mexico. He returned to the United States when World War I ended. Living in Los Angeles in 1926, he became a naturalized citizen and changed his surname to "de Aryan" to reflect his ambition to champion the philosophy of the "Aryan Race."



C. Leon De Aryan

De Aryan arrived in San Diego four years later and worked for a short time for the city of San Diego in the Public Works Department. His newspaper premiered on October 6, 1930. For the next 35 years, *The Broom* appeared on Monday in San Diego--its pages filled with news and editorials expounding the virtues of personal free will, vegetarianism, and faith in Jesus Christ. De Aryan's columns also vented anger against labor unions, taxation, and government interference in daily lives.



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at the post office of San Diego California, under the Act of March 3, 1879. In 1935, de Aryan ran for mayor. As the "anti-vice candidate" he pledged to free the city from "domination by the gamblers and the brothels" and to make sure "the underworld riff-raff of the nation" would not flood San Diego during the Panama-California Exposition. Voters were unimpressed. In a race won by Percy J. Benbough, de Aryan garnered less than 1% of the votes cast.

The next year the publisher's anti-union writings got him in trouble with the local longshoreman's union. Confronted at the foot of Broadway by several dock workers, de Aryan was asked if he was the one writing articles against strikers.

When he answered yes, the men pummeled de Aryan and then tossed him in the bay. Dripping wet, de Aryan marched to the local police station and filed charges.

But de Aryan's diatribes against organized labor paled in comparison to his published views on Jews. Always denying he was anti-Semitic, de Aryan claimed that his critics were "ignorant and narrow-minded people." "I stand with the Truth" became his mantra.

De Aryan's "truth" revealed that Jews were "conspirators" who were driving the world to war in order to "plunder their dupes." He decried the "bloody exploitation carried on by International Jewish Bankers."

In September 1940, after most of Europe had fallen to Nazi Germany, de Aryan wrote: "the Jews are scuttling like cockroaches out of Europe. Their international bankers and wholesale murderers and betrayers of France are safely esconded in New York and Canada; thousands of other Jewish refugees are taking jobs from American employees. De Aryan added, "Still I do not hate them because it is against my religion."

His confrontational views drew the attention of the California Senate's Un-American Activities Committee in April 1942. Testifying in Los Angeles, de Aryan proudly told the committee he had pursued an active anti-Communist policy in *The Broom* from "practically the first issue." Because of this, he claimed, the Communists were after him and even threatened him on the telephone. Fortunately, he could identify the Reds on the telephone, explaining to the committee that all Communists have a "guttural sound" in their voices. Examining de Aryan's testimony, a government attorney concluded that the publisher was a paranoid "crack pot" who would probably savor prosecution for the sake of publicity.

That summer, as de Aryan prepared to run as a Republican candidate for Congress, a federal indictment for sedition was served by a telegraphic warrant from Los Angeles. De Aryan was booked into San Diego County jail. Blaming his arrest on the C.I.O. and Communists, de Aryan began a short-lived hunger strike but continued to publish his newspaper with the aid of friends and a sympathetic printer.

He was released after several weeks, but a new indictment brought de Aryan and twenty-seven other suspected Nazi sympathizers to Washington D.C. where they went on trial in April 1944; all were charged by Attorney General Francis Biddle with conspiracy to break down the morale of the U.S. military.

De Aryan's fellow defendants in the "Great Sedition Trial" included several well-known American fascists such as William Dudley Pelley, Lawrence Dennis, and Robert Noble. The dissidents all opposed the war and shared a loathing of organized labor, Jews, communism, and President Roosevelt. A reporter noted: "Seldom have so many wild-eyed, jumpy lunatic fringe characters been assembled in one spot, within speaking, winking, and whispering distance of one another."

The indictments of the American "fascists" were popular with the public but with no evidence to support charges that they had aided the enemy the trial was a fiasco for the government. The defendants were unruly in court and alternately "moaned, groaned, laughed aloud, cheered and clamored" and on one occasion, wore Halloween masks. The case was never submitted to the jury and was finally dismissed in December 1945—seven months after the war ended in Europe.

De Aryan returned to San Diego and continued publication of *The Broom*. He drew public attention again in 1952 with a lawsuit to block fluoridation of the water system in San Diego. His suit failed but voters would ultimately reject the water treatment plan. With lessening fanfare, de Aryan continued weekly publication of his newspaper until his death on December 13, 1965 at age 79.



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What's wrong with being intolerant toward people and things that shouldn't be tolerated?

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## How the Jews slyly despoiled German-Americans of political power

#### Pickets at Eugen Brand's

NEW YORK.—The Commie fellow travelers and Jews who instituted picket lines in front of Eugen Brand's news store at 200 E. 86th street in Yorkville, are freezing to death nights, street in Yorkville, are freezing to death nights, hence are appearing only for very short token-like demonstrations and then go home. Brand should dish them some hot coffee and doughnuts and give them a chance to warm their hands and feet near a hot stove; he could place a kerosene burner on the sidewalk and "feed his enemies, do good to those who persecute and despise him".

Among the desultory appearances on the picket line on Wednesday night were a "Gold Star Mother" and one alleged "War Veteran". They don't shout anymore since Oliver Pilat warned in his New York POST articles that the pickets were provoking the German-stock population who with grim faces listened to shouts that "Hitler had gassed 6-million Jews". Evidently the police put a muffler on such

Evidently the police put a muffler on such provocation to riots since in this city "free speech" is regulated by police license,

On Friday nights the "Wallace Youth Pro-

#### Allies Bring Democracy to Germany

BREMEN. - Two American soldiers and a German garage owner have been arrested in section with an 83,000 marks (\$40,000) bank

The soldiers, whose names were withheld, are enlisted men in the Bremerhaven port of embarkation, an army announcement said.

Lt. Col. R. J. Schuetz, provost marshal, said the German garageman was picked up on a tip from one of his employes who noticed that his boss carried a green barracks bag similar to one described in a police alarm on the robbery.

A police search of the garage turned up the

bag, crammed with money Eyewitnesses said two soldiers, wearing civ-ilian overcoats and hats, entered a branch of the Norddeutschke Kreditbank on Friday and robbed the bank employes at gunpoint,

#### Alleged Czech Criminals at Large in Germany

STUTTGART, Germany (Special).—German ress here is publishing news items and edi-

not in the Christ. It reaped accordingly. Had the German people received a Christian edu-cation instead of a Catholic and Lutheran, they would have followed in the footsteps of the Christ. The results speak louder than words whether Germany ever was Christian. Of course, the same holds true of America.

The BROOM is not published for slaves of "education" but only for readers who are able and glad to THINK for themselves and see the truth and the reality of Life for what it actual-

# N, Y. TIMES Debunks "Nazi-Slaughter of 6-million Jews" (From COMMON SENSE) This man gave freely to Jewish societies and they made him a director, in order to make him give more and more for the cause. At that time Jewish societies became more and more than the sadership of t

### "JEW YORKERS" vs. New Yorkers

NEW YORK.—Forty years ago I heard for the first time the epithet "Kike" spat out by my first employer, a Jewish importer, in whose office I worked as a bookkeeper.

He was born of German immigrants at Wheeling, W. Va., but spoke German perfectly and sent his sons to be educated in Germany I kept in touch with him and his family for many years, after I had left his employ to live on the Pacific Coast, in China and in South America.

This man gave freely to Jewish societies

of 6-million Jews"

(Frem COMMON SINSE)

In the year 1948 the New York TIMES stated that the world's population in 1948 of persons professing Judaism amounted to "15,000,000 to 18,000,000 Jews" in addition to the "600,000 to 700,000 in Palestine." The New York TIMES at that time spared no effort to establish the exact world's population of persons professing Judaism. They are very expert in this field.

Images courtesy Special Collections, San Diego Public Library

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