

(GDH - 4/22/51)

REPORT: Open-Air Meeting of the "AMERICAN FASCIST UNION"
staged on the Boston Common, Boston, Massachusetts.

Date: Sunday, April 22, 1951. Time: 4:00 P.M.

Speaker: Richard Hamel. Attendance: 50 People.

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Richard Hamel has done everything possible to make himself presentable. A month ago he appeared about Boston looking like a tramp. Today, alongside of the crowd gathered to hear Father Feeney on the Charles Street side of the Boston Common, he looked like a new man in a pressed blue spring suit, white shirt, and figured tie. Even his shoes were shined. For the first time in many weeks, Richard Hamel appeared clean-shaven.

The narrow-backed leader of the "American Fascist Union" put on a real show. In a pugnacious manner he attempted to present the case for the Axis nations - Germany, Italy, and Japan. He termed them the bulwark against Communist aggression everywhere. Squaring off with clenched fist, Hamel was almost ludicrous. He kept his eyes closed while talking, and refused to look at a hostile circle of people who booed and shouted and laughed. Hamel drew people who had been standing on the outer fringe of the Father Feeney crowd. Often these people make up the small part of Feeney's audience which is hostile to the ideas put forth by the Cambridge priest, thus the switch to Hamel's meeting hardly lessened their hostility for Richard Hamel is far more outspoken than Father Feeney.

This meeting was called a meeting of the "American Union". Hamel dropped the "Fascist" label today, but in view of his open pro-Fascist stand there was little need to do this. While the audience jeered his efforts Hamel compared himself to "every man in history with enough guts to take a stand" in the face of opposition. It was a truly pathetic sight.

One round little man who spoke in German at one point defended Hamel and when there seemed no point in continuing the meeting, Hamel trooped off in disgust with his round companion. The crowd jeered and booed further while Hamel continued on across the grass swept Boston Common.

Just before closing Hamel defied his detractors by shouting instructions to "anyone interested in joining the American Union". He didn't seem to gain a single recruit.

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