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Carrying out the Will of the People

## Un-German Literature to the Bonfire

Nightly rally by the German Student Union

The German student body of the Berlin universities assembled yesterday for a torchlight procession on Hegel Platz [Plaza]. They formed up, accompanied by a truckload of 25,000 books and writings harmful to the people. The procession ended at Opera Platz, where as a symbolic act, these Un-German writings were set aflame on a pile of logs.

Thousands and even more thousands of men wished to attend the spectacle. Already long before the start of the event, the Opernplatz was thickly lined with people. As the student formations and associations entered, many greeted them with thundering “Heils” and shouts of rejoicing.

The associations then took positions around the bonfire and threw heaps of books into the flames. Students stepped forward, piles of books in their arms, and shouted the flame verses:

“Against class warfare and materialism, for the community of the people and an idealistic way of life!”

“Against decadence and moral degeneracy, for decency and custom in family and government!”

*The writings of Marx and Kautsky, Heinrich Mann, Gläser, Kästner, Emil Ludwig Cohn, Hegemann, Tucholsky, Kerr, Ossietzky, and other scribblers were consigned to the flames.*

*Then Reichsminister Dr. Goebbels spoke:*

“The age of an overly refined Jewish intellectualism has come to an end, and the German Revolution has made the road clear again for the German character. This revolution came not from above; it broke out from below. It is therefore in the best sense of the word the fulfillment of the will of the people. Here stands the worker by the professional, the student by the soldier and young worker, here stands the intellectual with the proletarian.

“In the last fourteen years, comrades, as you have been forced in silent shame to suffer the humiliations of the November Republic, the libraries became filled with trash and filth from Jewish asphalt-litterateurs.

“While academic knowledge gradually isolated itself from life, young Germany has already long prepared a new, right, and normal condition. (?)

“The movement, that formerly [competed with??] the state, has now marched into the state, indeed it has become the state. Thus the German spirit has gained an entirely different potentiality. The revolutionary tempo, revolutionary élan, and revolutionary breakthroughs that German youth experienced in past years, are now the tempo and the élan of the entire state.

“Revolutions that are genuine do not stop anywhere. No area can remain untouched. As men are revolutionized, so are things revolutionized.

“For that reason you do well, in these midnight hours, to consign the unclean spirit of the past to the flames. Here the spiritual foundations of the November Republic sink into the ground. But out of the ruins will triumphantly rise the phoenix of a new spirit, that we will carry, that we will promote, and to which we will give decisive weight.

“I believe there were never student youth so qualified as these, proud of life, proud of their tasks, and proud of their duty. Never have young men ever had the right so much as now to cry out, with Iulrich von Hutten, ‘Oh Century! Oh Science! It is a joy to be alive!’”

“The barriers that divided us are torn down. People have again discovered the people. And even if the old do not understand this, we young have already carried it out.

“The old lies in the flames, but the new will arise from the flame of our own hearts. Where we stand together, and where we go together—there we will serve the Reich and our future.

“As often in the times, when we still fought in the opposition, let us again, now that we have the power and thus the accountability in our hands, close ourselves together in the promise, that we earlier so often hurled into the evening sky:

“Let it be an oath illuminated by many flames! Heil to the Reich and the nation and our leader Adolf Hitler!”

The Horst-Wessel song broke out, and the flames continued to crackle, in which heaps and heaps of collected Jewish poison-literature had been thrown. With this demonstration is the struggle against the Un-German spirit symbolically begun, a struggle that will now proceed. This struggle will not stop, until all Germans are again of the German spirit.