

No Time for Hypocrisy

FROM THE moment that Hitler first laid down as a cardinal principle the propagation of race hate, The Amsterdam News has condemned him, his brutish followers, and his pagan philosophy. We have seen in his persecution of the Jews too close a parallel to the oppression which black folk suffer here in this "land of the free."

Our position on the German chancellor remains unchanged. We are bitterly opposed to every step he takes in his return to the barbarism of the Middle Ages. We are equally opposed, however, to the hypocrisy of most of Hitler's American critics. Blind to the oppressions in this country, they are eager to denounce those in foreign lands.

A case in point is our contemporary, The New York Herald Tribune. In its issue of July 19 this defender of the status quo piously comments:

"At no time within the past generation that we can recall has any government with which the Reich would like to be compared first exercised its undoubted sovereign right to disenfranchise an element in the population amounting to a hundredth part of it, then imposed upon that element social and economic disabilities which robbed it of every material and intellectual weapon of defense and then used highly disciplined government henchmen in disguise to visit upon innocent and defenseless members of the disenfranchised caste the bestial fury of the congenital bully."

This statement is a lie, a damnable lie, and The Herald Tribune knows that it is a false, misleading and vicious misrepresentation. If the Swastika is an emblem of racial oppression, the Stars and Stripes are equally so. This country has consistently refused to recognize one-tenth of its population as an essential part of humanity. It has disenfranchised this tenth part. It has imposed social, economic and political disabilities upon these people. It has systematically encouraged the mass murder of these people through bestial mobs, through denial of economic opportunity, through terrorization. Government officials—sheriffs, deputies, police officers, army officers, and political officeholders—have encouraged and participated in mob action against "innocent and defenseless members of the disenfranchised caste."

All this and more The Herald Tribune knows. Yet, it can remain silent in the face of this while weeping copiously over the fate of Jews in Berlin. The persecuted Jews, as well as Catholics, Communists, Socialists and trade unionists in Hitler's Reich deserve the sympathetic understanding of the civilized world. They deserve also every possible aid to free them from their present state of oppression. But such distortion of facts as The Herald Tribune has been guilty of helps no one, here or abroad.