

HITLER "HEILS" HAIL OBDURATE PRELATE

Cardinal Faulhaber Attacks Treatment Under Concordat

With every other organization in Germany gobbled up, the Evangelical and Roman Catholic churches continue their valiant, tortured struggle against absorption in the totalitarian State.

Last week, Michael Cardinal von Faulhaber, Archbishop of Munich, mounted the pulpit of old St. Michael's and basted Nazi violations of the Concordat—the 1933 treaty between the Reich and the Vatican under which Catholics agreed to a ban on the political activities of clergy and lay leaders, in exchange for religious liberty in their churches and schools.

More than 8,000 worshipers, including former Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, jammed the rococo edifice to hear the man who stands out in the Third Reich for daring to speak freely four years after freedom of speech disappeared.

"With the Concordat we are hanged," the aging Prelate raged in his soft *Süd-deutscher* accent. "Without the Concordat, we are drawn and quartered and *then* hanged."

Scope—Many Catholic grievances do not fall within the treaty's scope. Thus, the nuns are now serving long prison terms, they were duly sentenced for smuggling currency out of the country. Prelates and lay leaders landed in jail for crimes of immorality, and the horrors of concentration camps drove several clergymen to suicide. Yet, the Catholics believe they suffer on trumped-up charges, the Vatican is powerless to defend them.

Cardinal Faulhaber, with his red hat as bright as his courage in the candle-light, took up the treaty's violations clause by clause. Article I, which guarantees religious freedom, was constantly broken, he said, by Nazi attacks on the faith of Catholic youths. The free communications promised to the Vatican, to priests, and to their parishioners collapsed under the Nazi practise of reading and tampering with letters. Protection guaranteed to the Catholic clergy, the Cardinal insisted, did not sanction the "permission given to the Nazi press to sling mud almost daily at priests."

Then the Prelate who has been called the world's greatest pulpit orator took up the subject of parochial schools. In Catholic Bavaria, Nazi interference became scandalous this month, when out of 7,457 children in church schools last semester, only 357 registered for the new term. Nazis alleged that 95 per cent. of the parents had voted against the schools. His Eminence charged that parents had been intimidated into enrolling their youngsters in classes "where there is no guaranty that the Catholic faith will not be made the subject of ridicule and laughter." In Bavaria alone, he said, 600 teaching Sisters had lost their jobs to Brown Shirt instructors.

"Shame"—Fired by his audacity, the aroused congregation broke into his sermon time after time with cries of "*Pfui!*" (shame) for the Reich.

"We do not want to repudiate the Concordat," the Cardinal concluded, "but if it is repudiated it will hurt the Reich more than the church . . . How can other

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Governments have faith in the word of Germany's statesmen, or believe she will keep her agreements, when this treaty with the Vatican, freely entered into and signed, has not been kept? The mutual trust of nations is based on respect for treaties, and Germany's honor will be irreparably damaged if she fails to abide by this treaty with the Vatican." As he left the church, excited worshipers greeted him with shouts generally reserved for Hitler—"Heil, Cardinal! Hoch, Cardinal!"

The brave attack which would probably have landed any other German in a concentration camp aroused no immediate action. One reason for the Cardinal's immunity is the special protection extended to him by Pope Pius. Shortly after Hitler came to power, the Prelate's indiscretions so outraged Brown House zealots that one tried to assassinate him. Thereupon the Holy Father made him a Papal Legate, so that the Reich would have to answer to the Vatican for any attack on his person.

Unity—To meet official pressure which at times amounts to persecution, Catholics have at least the strength of their unity. Protestants find their resistance weakened by serious splits. The German Christians, ardent Nazis, enthusiastically flirt with the Nordic paganism, race propaganda, and fire and water worship with which Alfred Rosenberg, Party idea man, and Baldur von Schirach, head of the Hitler Youth, try to revivify the orthodox



Von Faulhaber: "Heil, Cardinal" and "Pfui" as he blasted Nazi violations of the Concordat

Evangelical creed. At the other extreme stands the Confessional Synod, led by the fighting Martin Niemöller, War-time submarine hero. They are unalterably opposed to State interference in church affairs.

At first, Hitler tried to govern through his friend, Bishop Ludwig Mueller. By October, 1935, however, the stubborn, tactless former War chaplain had so alienated most German Protestants that Hitler deposed him and gave control to

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Hans Kerrl, Reich Church Minister, Kerrl inaugurated a Committee form of government headed by Dr. Wilhelm Zoellner, former Superintendent of the Evangelical Church in Westphalia.

Promises—The Committee led an uneasy life for seventeen months, at times outraged by attacks on Christianity, then was lulled by Hitler's promises that the campaign would cease. Its latest trouble came last month, when nine pastors in Luebeck refused to take orders from a German Christian Bishop. Secret police placed them under arrest in their homes. Doctor Zoellner and his fellow members tried to investigate on the spot, but failed to get the necessary permission. Then Zoellner himself arranged to preach in Luebeck. Police again intervened, forbidding the sermon and ordering him to stay in Berlin. Thereupon the entire Committee resigned.

Last week, Kerrl took a plane for Berchtesgaden, Hitler's mountain retreat, with his problems. Again, *Der Fuehrer* admitted failure. "Since the Reich Church Committee has failed in its efforts to effect a union of the various church groups in the German Evangelical Church," he announced, "the church shall now provide itself with a new constitution and new order, in full freedom and in accordance with the will of the people of the church."

Under the decree, all church members will choose a Synod to draw up the new constitution. Since the election will be held under the Reich Church Minister, many Germans questioned the extent of their free choice. Nazis ushered in the last church election, they recalled, with the ballyhoo, threats, and pressure which characterize their political plebiscites. The night before the poll, Herr Hitler stood before a microphone and hoarsely warned that he would consider a vote against the German Christians a vote against himself. Not unnaturally, they won.