

[Canton, St. Lawrence Co. NY]

Free Speech Versus Concentration Camps

Due to a sharp difference of viewpoint between the minister and a member of the congregation, the First Universalist Church of Canton will make a special effort to honor the principle of free speech by providing for an open forum period-following the morning service on Nov. 27 in which the dissident voice will have an opportunity to speak.

Miss Else Saleski, formerly instructor in German in St. Lawrence University and for a number of years a member of the Universalist parish of Canton, feels that public remarks made by the Rev. Hugh S. Tigner about Fascism in general and Naziism in particular malign a great leader and do injustice to a noble cause. Whereupon, Mr. Tigner has offered Miss Saleski a period of twenty-five minutes following the Sunday morning church service in which to express her contrary conception of the truth to all who care to hear it. Following Miss Saleski's address twenty minutes will be allowed for questions or brief comments from members of the audience.

Commercial Advertiser, Canton NY, Tue. 22 Nov 1938

HITLER DEFENDED IN CHURCH PULPIT
SPEAKER FINDS NO GROUNDS FOR CRITICISM OF NAZIISM
Dissenting Opinions Expressed to Views—Questions Asked Speaker

Dr. Else Saleski, former instructor in German at St. Lawrence University, on invitation some days earlier, was the speaker in defense of German Naziism and Adolph Hitler's persecution of the Jewish people of Germany in the Universalist Church Sunday. Miss Saleski, who attends the Universalist Church, took exceptions to expressions made by the pastor, the Rev. Mr. Tigner, and the latter accorded her the privilege of coming to the defense of Hitlerism and what it stands for from the Universalist pulpit.

A forum followed the regular service of the church Sunday morning and at this Dr. Saleski spoke, and was later questioned quite freely by persons present, including George H. Bowers, Esq.; Dr. Albert V. Corey, professor of history at St. Lawrence University; Isadore Demaky, president of the student body of the University; and others, while remarks were made by Meyer Sperling of Ogdensburg, Professor Wm. G. Houk of the University, and Dr. William N. Fenton, anthropologist at the University.

Miss Saleski denied that the statement made by the pastor that Naziism is directly contrary to the principles of Christianity, was correct. She asserted that a lack of will power and indecision characterized a mixed race, as compared to a pure race, unmixed. To her, the German people, a Nordic race, finds satisfaction in deed and struggle. Union with other races is weakening and unsatisfactory. She upheld the German Chancellor's treatment of the Jews, stating that the Jew was an actor, intimated that there was more or less acting at this time before the world. The Jew, to her, is more or less of a liar and drew upon himself and his people what is happening in Germany today. In other words, he is the cause of it and persecution or the treatment accorded him is simple justice.

Miss Saleski was given courteous hearing as she spoke for twenty-five minutes.

Meyer Sperling of Ogdensburg charged the speaker as being unsure in her statements and rather begging the question throughout her talk. He asserted that he would not dare to stand on his feet and make these [sic] sort of statements about anybody or anything unless he was sure of his ground. He stated that the Jews in Germany are about one percent of the population. "We are accused of everything in Germany," said he. "We are Jews, it is true, but we have imbibed the highest ideals of Christianity. I was brought up in a Jewish home, but I was not taught or told to hate any race or people. The German people up to 1914 had no Jewish problem. Germany was then a highly civilized country. My people have been deprived of everything except participating in business, and now that is taken away from them. I think it is a brutal injustice to spread false propaganda that is largely at the root of what is happening in Germany today.

Commercial Advertiser, Canton NY, Tue. 29 Nov 1938