

**THE B.U.F.
AND
ANTI-SEMITISM**

(AN EXPOSURE)

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MR. CHARLES WEGG PROSSER was one of the leaders of the British Union of Fascists. He was a candidate at the L.C.C. Elections on March 4th, 1937, when he was described by Mosley as "an old and tried member". In *Action* on June 5th, 1937, we were told that "Mr. Wegg Prosser is a young Catholic who has made a great name for himself not only as a speaker, but as a writer. His whirlwind campaign in Limehouse, where he stood in the L.C.C. elections last March as British Union candidate, is still remembered by all. He always gives a well-thought-out and well-reasoned speech, and wins support by the clear and concise manner in which he puts the Fascist case."

Mr. Wegg Prosser has now renounced his allegiance to Sir Oswald Mosley, and does so in clear-cut language which leaves no doubt as to his meaning. He says:

"I renounce my political allegiance to you for the following reasons. Your methods have become increasingly dictatorial and un-English. You are side-tracking the whole issue of social betterment by the anti-Jewish campaign.

"You introduced a hierarchy of unnecessary ranks and grades, headed by a small, narrow-minded group of ex-Army officers. You never moved without a retinue

of these persons, scampering to open doors for you and do you small favours. At your meetings you had spotlights, hymns, and chants of praise directed to you alone. For long I stifled my disgust, but now I do so no longer because I see that all this, trivial as it may seem, is significant. It destroys your claim to be a "British movement" with its British outlook and methods, distinguished from foreign movements. You retreated, it is true, from the Fascist name and the Fascist symbol which once you used, but it was a retreat from Italy to Germany, inasmuch as you then imitated the uniform of the German S.S.

"Anti-Jewish propaganda, as you and Hitler use it, is a gigantic side-tracking stunt, a smoke-screen to cloud thought and divert action with regard to our real problems . . . Hitler I cannot judge, but you, I know, are intelligent enough to agree that in places where no Jews exist (as in my home county), there may still exist injustice, poverty, exploitation, bad housing, low wages, dirt and degradation . . . Hitler attacks the Jews to whip up the lukewarm and critical, you do it to get a mass support in East London and other places. I tried to interest those people in real problems, unemployment, wages, housing, and so on. I watched with dismay the mentality which said 'Get rid of the Jews, and you will automatically get rid of unemployment, slums, sweating'.

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HOW THE FASCISTS GOT THEIR FUNDS

On November 12th, 1936, the Home Secretary, Sir John Simon, stated in the House of Commons that the funds of the British Fascists were being supplemented from abroad

Further, I have always loathed the spirit which says 'He is a Yid, therefore bad'. I know, and you know, that vile unprovoked assaults have been made on single Jews by a group of Fascists, even looting has occurred.

"All that I have seen and read in recent months leads me to the same conclusion, your movement is the negation of everything that is British. Our people are fair, tolerant, and humane. You introduce a movement imitating foreign dictators, you run it as a soulless despotism. You side-track the demand for social justice by attacking the Jew, you give the people a false answer, and unloose the lowest mob passions."

WHAT MOSLEY ONCE SAID

The sincerity of the Fascists can easily be tested by a reminder of the following statements of their leader.

Speaking in May, 1924, Sir Oswald Mosley said that the Fascist movement "slavishly but ineffectually imitated the latest frenzy of Continental hysterics", and accused Mr. Churchill of strutting in a borrowed shirt—a black shirt—which he had begged, borrowed, or stolen from Signor Mussolini.

Then Mosley turned Fascist and, in a signed statement in the Press, July 28th, 1933, he said: "We have no quarrel with Jews as Jews, just as we have no quarrel with Catholics as Catholics. Fascism is in no sense anti-Semitic. Anti-Semitism was never known in Fascist Italy. For many centuries religious and racial tolerance has been part of the British character, and I give my assurance that under Fascism that great tradition will be preserved." Events have shown how, here again, Mosley has made a complete turn.