NAZI TAKEOVER STIRS JEWS

NEW YORK (WNS) The strong showing made by the right-wing National Democratic Party in the recent elections in the state of Hesse, West Germany, has triggered strong reactions in Jewish circles both here, in Curope and in Israel.

According to official elec-tion results, the right-wing NDP, a neo Nazi party that has magnetized Hitler followers on all levels of its activities, polled more than 200,000 votes, or ten percent of the total vote. The victory gives the party eight seats in the Hesse Parlia ment.

Reacting to the development, American Jewish Committee president, Moris B. Abram, said the election results "show the rising strength of the National Democratic Party," thus confirming the fears expres-

sed recently by an AJC visting delegation to Germany. The election results, Mr. Abram added "go beyond these fears since Hesse, a Sociallist stronghold, disturbingly now seems to have become infected with the neo-Nazi virus," The American Jewish Committee, he declared, "hopes that the Bonn Government will redouble its efforts to maintain an alert in which the growth of the National Democratic Party and all other extreme-rightist elements is carefully observed, using the schools, the churches, the mass media and the courts to counteract these growing vestiges of Nazism."

In Israel meanwhile press reaction to the situation was both sharp and alarming. Chief focus of press comment in Israel was on the fact that this was the first time that the ultra rightwing NDP had won seats in a state Parliament, One newspaper, Haaretz, warned that the Hesse elections must serve as a danger alert "to the entire world and, first and foremost, to Germany itself," Since many of the voters who cast their ballots for the neo - Nazi party were young Germans, the news-paper observed," it is obvious that there is something fundamental and grave in this neo-Nazism".

Similar sentiments were results, the newspaper said, demonstrate the "mistake" of those who believed that the roots of Nazism have been extirpated from among postwar Germans.

Also in Israel, the Association of Anti-Nazi Partisans has called on the West German Government to outlaw the neo-Nazi party.

In England, both the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the British section of the World Jewish Congress issued statements of concern over the Hesse elections. The chairman of the British section of the WJC, Jacob Halevy, pointed out that the leadership of the National Democratic Party was in the hands of former active members of the Nazi Party and staunch supporters of Hitler.

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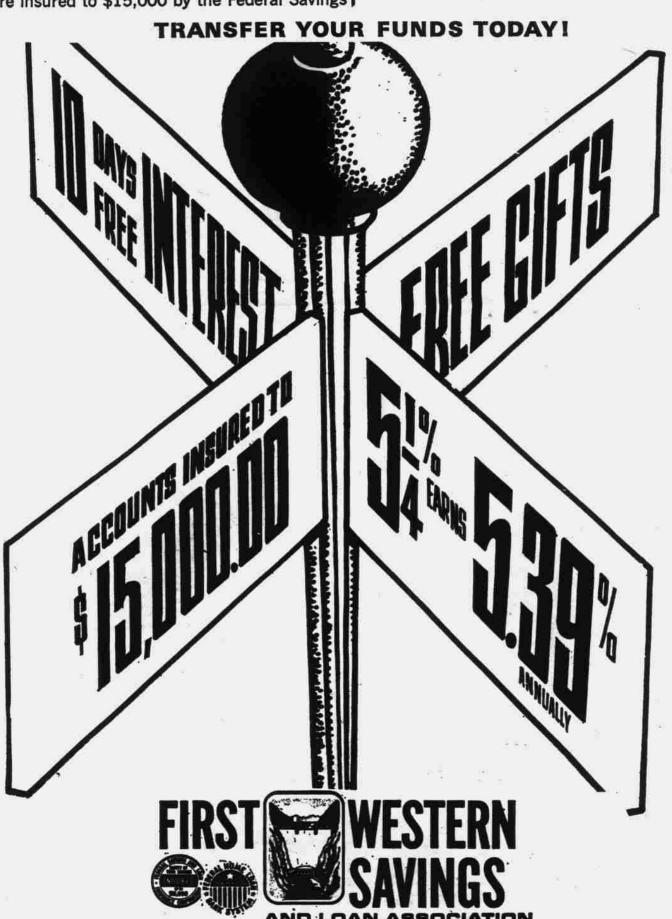
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