

# 1930 TARIFF ACT CAN BE USED AS CLUB ON NAZIS

## F. D. R. Could Impose Higher Duties On Germany's Trade With U. S.

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 18. — If President Roosevelt should decide to follow up his denunciation of Nazi terrorism, he would have at his command a big stick placed in his hands by the Hawley-Smoot tariff act of 1930.

Through it he could give Germany a stiffer dose of the sort of medicine meted out by Secretary Ickes, who, under another statute, blocked the sale of American helium to Germany for use in her airships.

The tariff act, in Section 338, requires the President to proclaim new and higher duties on the goods of any country which discriminates against our commerce, "directly or indirectly."

If discriminations then continue, the President is authorized to forbid entirely the importation from the offending country of any products he may designate.

### Trade Diminishes

The tariff commission is required to report any discriminations to the President. Whether it has made any such report in the case of Germany is not known, since this function is conducted in secret. But it probably is safe to guess that the matter has been discussed by members of the "executive committee for co-ordinating commercial policy"—a group which includes several cabinet and sub-cabinet members as well as members of the tariff commission.

Certainly there is no doubt that Germany's private brand of international horse-trading has caused German-American trade to diminish.

There is also Section 308 of the tariff act, which provides that if any foreign government subsidizes the production or export of any article, an amount equal to such subsidy shall be imposed by this Government as an additional import duty. Other safeguards are provided in the anti-dumping act of 1921.

### Benefits Denied

Any drastic action against imports from Germany would inevitably damage our export trade as well. Cotton, in particular, which has already lost much of its former world market, would suffer further if Germany could not obtain credits, through sales to America, with which to buy our Southern fiber.

Germany is already denied any benefits from the Hull reciprocal-trade program. Every other nation in the world may enjoy the tariff reductions under the new Anglo-American trade agreement, for instance, but because Germany and the United States have no "most-favored-nation" treaty, the Nazi are excluded from these benefits and must pay the old rates on their shipments to this country.

German sales to the United States are also heavily handicapped by a widespread consumer boycott.