

# Johnson

**Trial Of Assassin  
Might Bring  
Out Plot**



*By Hugh S. Johnson*

NEW YORK, Nov. 17.—Miss Dorothy Thompson spoke on the air Monday night to plead for a fair trial for the young Polish Jew—Herschel Grynzpan—who shot the third secretary of the German Embassy in Paris—Herr Von Rath.

It was a stirring defense. She got an instantaneous reply from thousands of people. These contained many suggestions of contributions to provide a defense fund in the trial before the French courts. Upon this urging, Miss Thompson has asked some of her columnar colleagues to help her. It is a privilege.

The shooting of Von Rath by Grynzpan was used by the Nazis as a signal for such a wholesale persecution of Jews in Germany as threatens to expel or destroy them. The mob violence which occurred everywhere next morning, and stopped suddenly, by order, after it had served its purpose, had the appearance of an officially planned attack and none of spontaneous action. There is some evidence that this wholesale bloody purge was planned five months ago. In other words, this shooting seems to have been a convenient excuse. Or it may have been part of a plan, even more diabolical, to plant an insane assassin to provide that excuse—a deliberate sacrifice of Von Rath.

• • •