

# AMERICA FIRST SAYS RACE IS NOT ISSUE

Denies Anti-Semitism, Asserting That Interventionists, Not Lindbergh, Brought It Up

**CALLS IT 'SMOKE-SCREEN'**

**Committee Declares in a Statement That 'War Makers' Try to Destroy Dissenters**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHICAGO, Sept. 24—Denying charges that Charles A. Lindbergh is anti-Semitic, officials of the America First Committee issued a statement today deploring "the injection of the race issue into the discussion of war or peace."

"It is the interventionists who have done this," the statement said, and charged that "behind a smoke screen of groundless charges this nation is being led to war in violation of the Constitution of the United States."

Mr. Lindbergh asserted recently in a speech in Des Moines that three groups, the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt Administration, were mainly responsible for edging the United States to the verge of war.

The committee's statement, which bore no signatures, read as follows:

"Ever since the nation-wide effort to keep America out of war began the interventionists have sought to hide the real issue by flinging false charges at the America First Committee and at every leader who has spoken out against our entry into the European conflict. The present attack on Colonel Lindbergh is merely another case in point.

"Colonel Lindbergh and his fellow-members of the America First Committee are not anti-Semitic. We deplore the injection of the race issue into the discussion of war or peace. It is the interventionists who have done this.

"America First, on the other hand, has invited men and women of every race, religion and national origin to join this committee, provided only that they are patriotic citizens who put the interests of their country ahead of any other nation. We repeat that invitation.

"At least 80 per cent of the American people oppose our entry into the war. The America First Committee has supplied to these millions of citizens a leadership which has thus far helped to avert disaster. Consequently, the aim of the war-makers is to destroy the America First Committee.

"Behind a smoke screen of groundless charges this nation is being led to war in violation of the Constitution of the United States.

"There is but one real issue—the issue of war. From this issue we will not be diverted. We will carry on the fight until it is won."