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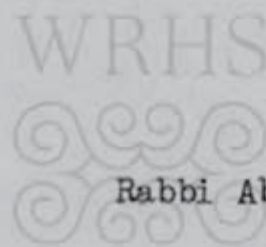
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What is behind the Christian Front?, 1940.

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WHAT IS BEHIND THE "CHRISTIAN FRONT"?



By
Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver



On
Sunday, January 28, 1940

At
The Temple

Two weeks ago, the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested in New York City seventeen men belonging to an organization called "The Christian Front" on the charge of seditious conspiracy, plotting to overthrow the government of the United States by armed revolt. The Federal agents discovered in the homes of some of these men arsenal of guns, bombs and ammunition.

These men were charged with plotting to assassinate some public officials, to blow up buildings, create a reign of terror as a means of seizing control of the government of the United States. Most of the men arrested were Irish Catholics. Some were German, ^{of} strong Nazi sympathies. men were Some of these/members of the National Guard and it is suspected that some of their weapons came from government depots.

When the news broke of these arrests, the country was shocked. In the Old World, such a thing would have created much less of a sensation. The Old World has, in the last twenty-five years, unfortunately become accustomed to secret and private armies as conspirators of political parties. But in the United States, fortunately, we had not become accustomed to such things. And this plot was so fantastic that they were tempted to laugh it off until they were reminded that Hitler started off exactly that way with a hand-ful of street-brawlers, and reckless people. And in a few years they succeeded in destroying the German Republic, in sweeping over Eastern Europe with fire and sword and in becoming a menace to the whole of the United States.

What is this Christian Front? Who are its members? What are its purposes? There is published by the Institute of Propaganda Analysis periodically, bulletins to help the intelligent citizen intelligently to analyze propaganda. This Institutelast week issued the following

analysis on the Christian Front. I read it as coming from an impartial body making an objective study. This Bulletin says:

"Now that seventeen members of the so-called Christian Front have been arrested in New York, charged by the Department of Justice with attempting to overthrow the Government of the United States, page-one newspaper stories are making the American people suddenly aware that Father Coughlin, of the Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak, Michigan, has created an organization in the cities of the industrial East, which can only be described as fascist - an organization whose members talk of killing the Jews and blasting their way to power with guns and dynamite.

"If the news has surprised anyone, the reason is only that New York newspapers until now have attempted to play down the activities of this Christian Front as much as possible, reporting them only in occasional two or three paragraph stories, hidden somewhere in the financial pages. During the past year, more than 200 members of the Christian Front have been arrested in New York, either for acts of violence or for inciting others to violence. Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia has sent investigators to dozens of Christian Front meetings -. The Commissioner of Police has been compelled to warn the members of the force against being too lenient with the Front: the organization is composed primarily of Irish Catholics, and many of the New York police, being Irish Catholics themselves, are not unsympathetic. The files of the Police Department's criminal alien squad are bulging with reports on the leaders of the Front, several of whom have long prison records.

"The Christian Front was started in May, 1939, when the Reverend Charles E. Coughlin urged his followers to form platoons of twenty-five. The progress of the Front has since been reported in detail in Father Coughlin's weekly, recently, "Social Justice". Only for example "Social Justice" reported the formation

of squads of so-called Minute Men, trained in the use of arms to fight "if and when it became necessary." Story after story has told of meetings of the Christian Front, some of them addressed by Father Coughlin, himself, over long-distance telephone.

"It was John F. Cassidy, now under arrest, who formed the first platoons. At first, he did so with the help of the Paulist Fathers, who permitted him to use their home as the head-quarters of the Front. Later, the Paulist Fathers were to drop the Front, when it began to engage in street fights and in mass attacks on isolated "Jews."

"The members of the Christian Front are, for the most part, the poor and discontented. On the fringes of the organization have been some well-to-do members of the community, like Merwin K. Hart, of the New York State Economic Council, and George U. Harvey, president of the Borough of Queens. The rank and file, however, are down at the heels: disgruntled men with frayed collars and unpressed trousers; unhappy housewives from slum tenements on First Avenue; youngsters of twenty or twenty-one, who have never worked, and have little hope of ever getting jobs "until people like me get into power."

"Night after night, they meet in Donovans's Tavern, just off Columbus Circle, at Tri-boro Palace uptown, at Ebling's Casino, and two or three similar places, to voice their discontent. They hold street-corner meetings all over the city, at which soap-box speakers berate the Jews as the cause of depression and war, usually speaking of them as "the Indians," or "the Eskimos," or the "Gefulte-fishes." Invariably there are threats of violence: talk of "blood flowing in the streets of New York."

"'We'll have to handle those Eskimos the Franco way,' the speakers will say.

"'The Franco way' is Father Coughlin's phrase. It reflects the belief

that Francisco Franco resorted to arms in Spain only to keep the "'Communists' from taking over the government. Father Coughlin has several times warned his followers to prepare for just such an eventuality in the United States by arming now. On July 30, 1939, he urged that these men be prepared 'to meet force with force'."

In other words, the Christian Front is a secret military organization, anti-Semitic, anti-Communist whose plan is to carry out, when the proper time comes, a putsch against the free democratic government of the United States, and in the meantime to terrorize, to kill off their active opponents, to blow up buildings belonging to the opposition and to carry on a hate-filled propaganda exactly as did the Nazis.

Who inspired, who guided, who encouraged these desperate terrorists? Who provided them with their slogans and their catchwords, the whole complex of inflammatory lies which have finally driven them to their dark plottings? Who urged upon this treasonable and immoral technique of creating a private army to achieve their befuddled political aims? Who, in other words, is responsible far more than the seventeen men for the crime of armed revolt against the United States government?

Why, it is a man who chooses to call himself a "simple Catholic priest", but who in reality is a religious quack with a dictatorship complex, an unscrupulous politician of the Huey Long type whose specialty is religious, racial and class hatred, smeared over with the synthetic honey of religious cant - a man by the name of Charles E. Coughlin.

When this gentleman who has been urging now for some years, "The Franco Way" upon the American people - when this gentleman heard of the arrest of the seventeen political gangsters who took him at his word, and proceeded to put preaching into practice - this gentleman quickly cut and ran to cover.

Oh, no, he had nothing to do with this specific "Christian Front." He had just been advocating by and large a christian front. He completely disavowed and disclaimed any connection with them. But he was soon confronted with the record of his spoken and written endorsement of a specific Christian Front and the specific Christian Front meetings which he had addressed, and the specific advocacies and urging in his Social Justice Magazine of real Christian Front unity and pledges to them. When confronted with the record, he determined to discredit his discreditors, to disclaim his disclaimers, to disavow his disavowers.

Last Sunday, this gentleman announced that he is the friend of the accused:

"While I do not belong to any unit of the Christian Front," Coughlin said, "nevertheless I do not disassociate myself from that movement. I reaffirm every word which I have said in advocating its formation; I re-encourage the Christians of America to carry on in this crisis for the preservation of Christianity and Americanism, more vigorously than ever despite this thinly veiled campaign launched by certain publicists and their controllers to vilify both the name and the principles of this pro-American, pro-Christian Frontiers," Father Coughlin declared.

"I take my stand beside the Christian Frontiers," Father Coughlin declared. "Recognizing also that in one sense the opposition to Communism is on trial, I freely choose to be identified as a friend of the accused. It matters not whether they be guilty or innocent; be they ardent followers of the principles of Christianity or the betrayers of them, my place is by their side until they are released or convicted."

And so, unrepentent, unashamed, this gentleman now takes his stand besides these people as he really should, for he belongs to that gang. He is not only their friend. He is their co-conspirator. He is their teacher and their guide and he now re-encourages the American people to join the Christian Front for the preservation of Christianity in America - presumably with rifles and bombs, hand grenades.

If you listened to his address, last Sunday, or read "Social Justice", you will see how deftly this gentleman reasons to to throw sand in the eyes of the American people. This arrest is not an arrest of seventeen plotters against the American government. O, no! I quote the editorial:

"Now that England and the Jews are battling desperately against Naziism, Atty. Gen. Frank Murphy of the United States finds a plot. Among the "plotters" are Michael Joseph Beirne, "born in Ireland," Andrew Buckley, "born in Ireland," John F. Cassidy, Leroy Keegan, George Kelly, Frank Michael Maline, John M. Ryan, Edward Walsh and Alfred J. Quinlan."

"The charges consist of conspiracy to kill twelve Members of Congress, bomb the American League for Peace and Democracy, bomb the Daily Worker bomb the Cameo Theatre in Times Square showing Russian motion pictures, and bomb railroad bridges.

"'The Arsenal' was worthy of Gilbert and Sullivan in their best day.

"The law under which the charges are made is Section 6, Title 18 of the United States Code covering 'seditious conspiracy.'

"Atty. Gen. Murphy was in New York for the round-up.

"If there is any plot within the United States to overthrow the government or any plot in the United States where an armed uprising is planned, success to Murphy and to G. Edgar Hoover in uncovering and prosecuting the guilty.

"For hundreds of years parallel procedure in respect to discovering

plots has emanated from the British government in respect to the Irish."

(Last paragraph in italics).

"John Bull, in trouble, could always discover a revolution, always could discover a cache of arms and always the Empire was in danger from man or a little group of men who had incurred the enmity of those in high office.

"Yet, good luck to Murphy and Hoover and may they have the courage to apprehend the known revolutionists of atheistic Russia who have already announced their sovereignty over every foot of American territory and who have plotted consistently since 1917 for the overthrow of our Government.

"Good luck 'Murph' and may that sword which was found be not a 'Fenian' sword for then the danger of Revolution may be real and the Empire of 'Bull' may once more be able to smear the Irish."

So this arrest was just a conspiracy on the part of Great Britain to smear the Irish, and of course back of Great Britain were the Jews. I quoted the editorial verbatim, and all of it. I did not quote a few lines and use dots as this gentleman tried the dot trick on me a few months ago. You may recall that from this pulpit I said: "If there is to be a (peace) conference, it should be stipulated in advance that the just claims of free and independent Czecho-Slovakia, Austria and Poland and the rights of the Jewish minorities must be given first consideration." The henchman of this gentleman in Cleveland picked up this item which was printed in the newspapers and sent it to headquarters in Royal Oak and my statement was quoted as follows: "If there is to be a conference, it should be stipulated in advance that the just claims of the Jewish minorities must be given first consideration." And so continues the article, Rabbi Silver would like to see millions of Christians lose their lives in order to win back the rights of the Jews.

And so, in this editorial and in a speech last Sunday, this gentleman subtly insinuates this attack on the Irish and Catholics. He can't forgive

former Attorney General Frank Murphy, and now Supreme Court Judge of the United States, a man who spoke so eloquently in Washington before the United Palestine Appeal on tolerance and good will, and one of the outstanding, noble Catholics laymen of the United States - he can't forgive Justice Murphy for having unearthed the plot. Coughlin says that Murphy did it perhaps "to temper the wrath of groups aroused by the Browder prosecution." And of course he would make light of the entire affair. In this manner this gentleman would like to deflect from ^{him} the wrath of the American people against this inciter of revolution in this peaceful land.

But it will not avail him. The American people have been on to him ever since 1936 when he collapsed politically and then turned Fascist in the hope of recapturing a following. You will recall, or perhaps you have forgotten, that he had been a New Dealer, that he had shouted week after week "Roosevelt or Ruin". Then he broke with the New Deal and he shouted "Roosevelt and Ruin". Then he began to call the President of the United States "Anti-God", "Scab". Here in Cleveland, he called the President of the United States "the great betrayer and liar, Franklin Double-Cross Roosevelt." This was at a Townsend Convention.

In 1936, you will recall, or perhaps you have forgotten, that this gentleman backed William Lemke for President of the United States and he then said: "If I cannot swing at least nine million votes to Mr. Lemke I will quite broadcasting." He swung less than nine hundred thousand. Did he quit broadcasting? For a little while. Then in 1937 he was back again but more or less a man whose public utterances and pledges were broken and whose magazine Social Justice had publicized more forgeries, fakes, canards, innuendoes, doctored statistics, distorted news reports and plain two-bit lies than any agencies in the world outside of Dr. Goebbels' stream-lined factory of fabricated

falsehoods in Nazi Germany. Dr. Goebbels laid no claim to religious compunctio.

The American people has watched this man denounce Wall Street and the International banker, and on the side play the stock-market. They heard him clamor for the restoration of silver to the proper value as a "Christian concern" only to learn later on that he had been speculating on a rise in silver to the tune of five hundred thousand ounces. They listened to this man's passionate defence of organized labor only to discover that his real contention was to organize a Nazi-Labor Front, regimented, coerced by the State. They heard him rant about Social Justice and social justice only to learn upon closer investigation that what he intended was a social justice on the order of Germany and Italy. He himself let the cat out of the bag by saying that "people call me Fascist and Nazi for today practically all the principles of social justice are being put into practice in Italy and Germany."

They heard him lie and speak sneeringly over and over again of democracy, of the magic of , as he calls it. In his magazine, "Social Justice", he advocates changing the American form of government, of abolishing Congress, of substituting Italian Fascist corporate state for the American form of government, and in this process of preaching Fascism, without calling it Fascism, of course, or preaching Naziism, without denouncing Naziism, of course. These are the tactics. And in the process of preaching Fascism, he finally came to exploit the one weapon which every Fascist uses - Anti-Semitism. He took over the whole arsenal of anti-Semitism from the Nazis - the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, the Jew as a war-monger, the Jewish Communist, and the Jewish International Banker. This was the crowning infamy in the career of the simple Catholic Priest - when in November, 1938 a horrible program broke loose in Germany which shocked the whole world by its savagery, by its unleashed brutality, six hundred synagogues were burned to the ground, and

tens of thousands of people were whipped and lashed, hundreds driven to suicide, during that week of universal indignation and horror not only to the Jewish world, but in the Christian world - Protestant and Catholic, this humble Catholic priest said: "It is too bad!" He even shed some crocodile tears. Nevertheless, he said the Nazis were doing that in self-defense, that they were punishing the Jews because the Jews created communism. Ever since that time he has been serving up information about the Jews to the Americans taken from Berlin, just as his information on democracy was taken from Rome and his economics and socialization taken from dime novels.

Steadily, this man has become more desperate, more reckless in his Fascist agitation, urging the Franco Way upon the American people, summoning men to form dragoons, as though the American people were in danger.. The American people has watched all this: "For out of the serpent's root shall come forth a basilisk, and his fruit shall be a flying serpent." Thoroughly deluded and incited men have actually been driven to plot conspiracies, to kill, to terrorize. Father Coughlin's own co-religionists have been greatly shocked by his presumption.

This week, in an editorial in the Commonweal, the following is said: "Fantastic, Tragic, Alarming, are three adjectives that seem best to describe the news of the arrest of seventeen residents of Brooklyn on charges of conspiring to overthrow the government of the United States. These men were members of the 'Christian Front,' a hazy organization claiming to be devoted to Christianity and the American Way and inimical to communism and atheism. But the American Way is very strange. So are its ideas of proper political, economic and social action. Destruction of the Jews was one of these. 'Direct action,' street demonstrations, control of the gutters - bombs and rifles and setting

up a dictator by force are some more.

"It might seem fantastic, of course, that seventeen men should think they could overthrow our government (even Hitler failed in his beer hall); the tragic part of it is that they undoubtedly conceived of themselves as true patriots and Christians while they dreamed their sanguinary dream. The alarming thing is that for their state of mind Catholics are largely responsible, and we shall continue to be responsible for the creation of other groups of hypnotized men, who may carry out their scheming with more tragic results, until we all recognize and nullify the powerful propaganda which directly creates them.

"Father Coughlin, the Brooklyn Tablet, Social Justice and their many abettors and sympathizers must bear the direct responsibility for the plight of these seventeen young men. For months the Tablet's correspondence columns have been the free public forum for the national director of the group, John F. Cassidy. It will not do to say that divergent views have appeared in the same column - letters in that column are picked and chosen, and besides, that is seeping out of it.

"In its issue dated only a few days before the arrest of Cassidy & Co. the Tablet printed an excoriating editorial ridiculing the Mayor of New York and his police for keeping tabs on street meetings at which 'representatives of certain organizations spoke and at which our Jewish fellow-citizens were adversely criticized.' That is, of course, early writing. No names are mentioned. But only the Christian Front comes to the reader's mind.

"Father Coughlin has taken of 'Franco's way...Christian American forces united to the last man...Rest assured we will fight you and we will win...The Christian Way is the peaceful way until, all argument having failed, all civil authority having failed, there is left no other way but the way of defending ourselves against the invaders of our spiritual and national rights...' That,

too, is eely writing, as are the qualifications amounting to contriductions, which pepper every essay or speech emanating from the Radio Priest. But he, himself, supplies a clue to his real meaning: 'Call this inflammatory, if you will. It is inflammatory.'

"Well, the flames reached the hearts of seventeen - perhaps many more of whom we know nothing; they acknowledge the leadership of men who set them afire, and they are in jail awaiting trial, but Father Coughlin says he had nothing to do^{it}/with. 'Buy Christian for Christmas.' It wasn't inflammatory, after all...."

This is not the only Catholic paper and the only Catholic force that has spoken up in denunciation of this gentleman from Royal Oak. But it is not enough. In my humble judgment the whole Catholic Hierarchy of the United States ought to repudiate this man. It is particularly timely for his immediate superior in Detroit, Archbishop Edward Mooney, to speak up. His silence, and the silence of all the Hierarchies in the United States have been difficult to explain. Surely they must realize the nenace of this man manifested in the actual arrest of his followers, his conspirators. Surely, too, the Catholic Church of America must be mindful that it, too, is a minority people in America, that it wasn't so long ago that the Catholic Church was being persecuted in these United States and was the subject of a vile campaign of slander and denunciation, that not so long ago the K.K. K. directed its movement not principally against the Jews, but principally aginast the Catholics.

And surely the Irish must understand that they, too, are a minority people in these United States, and that it wasn't so long ago that they were the subject of bitter attacks and bitter denunciations in this country. Men of the type of Coughlin may set in motion a very unfortunate Catholic

reaction in these United States. And I suspect, though I do not know, that the opposition which has developed against President Roosevelt's appointment of Myron C. Taylor to Rome, is due not so much to the traditional fear of the oppression of the state by the Church, but due to an aggravated, if unwarranted suspicion that there is a tendency within certain groups among the Catholics in the United States to dominate American life and to undermine their free democratic institutions and to reconstruct American life on the Franco model, by Franco methods. Of course, we know there is no such tendency. But Coughlin and his henchmen supply the reason for that kind of suspicion.

Although we know that Coughlin and his incited henchmen are not a tendency in the Catholic Church, but a rash and a boil, that man and his followers should be denounced. And our Federal Government should proceed to investigate this man. It is high Time. Attorney United States/Robert Jackson means to go to the bottom of this matter and not permit the talk of this man to cover up his sinister and bitter mean acts. It is time that Dies Committee focussed its attention on this man from Royal Oak. They have been altogether too lenient with him.

I am persuaded that the American people have already rejected this man. He is very confused and his confusion is driving him on to desperation.

He is likely to become more reckless, and sooner or later he will destroy himself complete. There is an old Arab proverb which applies to him:

"The dogs bark, but the caravan moves on."

1/ 2 weeks ago - Fed. Bureau, Invest - 17 members & belonging to an org
"Christian Front" on charge of sedition, conspiracy - plotting
armed revolt ag. the govt, the U.S. -
Fed. Agents discovered in homes of some, there - arsenal
of guns, bombs and ammunition

Charged with plotting to assassinate public officials, blow up
buildings, create a reign of terror as a means of seizing
control of govt, the U.S.

Most of those arrested were Irish Catholics - Some Germans
with strong Nazi sympathies. Some were members of the National Guard.
Weapons may have come from govt. depots.

Country shocked - In some countries, old world - has
of a sensation - accustomed to secret, private armies
as part of ^{conspiratorial} activities of certain pol. parties - In Amer.
heretofore unknown -

So fantastic - laugh it off! Hitler started off govt
that way - a handful of street-brawlers, rans-lubbers, ruffians
fellows - and in a few years ~~became~~ had disrupted the U.S. govt.
and is now a menace to which, mankind.

2/ Who are then Ch. F.? Impartial Bulletin - "Institute For
Prop. Analysis" - (Truth)

Another words - Ch. F. - a ~~first military~~ a secret
military org - Anti. Sem. - Anti. Com. as were the Nazis -
to carry out a Putsch ag. free, democ. govt, U.S. -
where proper army arrives. In meantime - terrorize -
kill off other opponents - blow up bldgs. belonging
to opponents - hate-filled org. - as did Nazis!

3/ who inspired - guided - encouraged these desperate terrorists?
who provided them ^{with the} weapons to catch words - ^{which seemed to} the ^{inflame} making
 his? - the immoral lesson which drove them to their dark filthy things!
who urged upon them the treasonable and immoral lessons
of ~~setting up~~ creating a private army to achieve their
befuddled pol. aims?

who is far more responsible than they for the crime
of armed revolt ag. the U.S.?

Why a man who chooses to call himself a Catholic priest - but in reality is a religious quack with a dictatorship complex, an unscrupulous politician, the thief big type, whose specialty is roc. ~~and~~ religious and class hatred, sweared ^{over} with the synthetic honey of religious cant. - Charles E. Carphenter

4/ When this gentleman, who has been ^{using} ~~using~~ the
"Franco Way" ^{up} ~~the~~ Am. people first heard, the agent
of the 17 ^{gal.} ~~gangs~~ ^{gangs}, who ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~at~~ ^{at} his word and
put his preaching into practice - he ^{gave} ~~cut~~ and ^{he had never} ~~and~~ ^{supported a Franco C.F.}
He completely ^{disclaimed} ~~disavowed~~ any connection with them.
But the record of his earlier endorsement, ^{the} C.F.
+ the ^{unyielding} ~~unyielding~~ ^{in S. I.} ~~was~~ ^{Stanley Ph.} ~~meeting~~
addressed, ^{friendship} ~~friendship~~ ^{for} ~~for~~ ^{John F. Cassidy} -
(un. to Hitler) - He determined to disclaim his
disclaimer + ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ - last week -
(Indk)

He had been a New Dealer + shouted "Roosevelt a Rummy".
He wrote with (N.D.) "Roosevelt and Rummy". He called Pres. U.S.
"anti-Jew" - "scab" - "the great betrayer and liar, Franklin Dumb-
cross Roosevelt" ^{Here in Cleveland - Tammany Convention}
- Nat. Union -

He backed William Zucke for Pres - ~~a~~ ^{and} said "If I am
elected at least 9 M. votes to Mr. Zucke I will quit
broadcasting". ~~For~~ ^{For} money less > 900,000 - but
next year was back on the Radio! - What's a broken
public pledge ^{more or less} to a man whose ^{public utterances & when} S.J. have published
more forgeries, falses, canards, innuendoes, doctored
statements, distorted news reports and plain 2-lit
lies than any agencies in the world outside
of Dr. Goebbels' ^{factory} ~~factory~~ ^{of falsehoods} in Nazi Germany.
- Claimed no rel. indifference or inconsistency.

The Am. people watched this fellow denounce Wall
Street & Modern. Commerce - & on the side play the
Stock - market.

They heard him claim for the restoration of silver ^{to}
its proper value - as a "Christian concern" - only
to learn later on that he had been speculating as a
res in silver to the tune of 500,000 cases -

They listened to passionate defenses of labor only to
discover that his real intention was a Nazi labor front

15

They heard him rant abt. Social Justice - only to
learn upon closer investigation - what he intended
was Soc. Justice. a la Italy & Germany

"Practically all the principles of social justice are being
put into practice in Italy & Germany"
They heard him rant abt. - absolute power for the few - "Socialist Gangster"
And in process of preaching to a crowd - he finally
came to exploit weapon which every - Antisemitic -
- while around "Portals" - Jew Curries - Jew hat - Gander - Jew - was - was -
That was the crowning act of infamy, this big thing,
the little Flower - Good Jews!

Nov. 20 1938 - Pyron - saying - chose that hour
- He was saying - but - "Sharpened his tongue like a serpent, and viper's
Got his information abt Jews from German source - all of - Ital. - Press -
More desperate - more reverent - more reckless -
in his recent ag. tactics - Franco key - summon
to form "platforms" - Chr. Front! - U.N.T.D.!

Polish Pol. 1:00 - 1:30, 1:30, 1:30, 1:30, 1:30
"For out, the serpents root shall come forth a basilisk
"And his fruit shall be a flying serpent"

6). His own colleagues - "Communist" (Jude) - 6 lines

Not enough! - repudiate him!

It is time that as referees Archbishop Edward Moore
should speak up!

This advice - Am. Hierarchy, the Catholic Church - is

difficult to explain - Friends-co workers baffled + wondering
Surely they must realize menace - manifest arrest delayed
Surely they know - exploiting his office-church - most shamefully
not doing his church any good - Also a minority - not
long ago - Smith - K. K. K. - And Smith, too,

Opposition to Pres. R - appointment - Myron C. Taylor -
aggravated + unwarranted misprais - tendency within
Church to dominate Am. pol. life - to undermine our
free, democ. institutions - + reconstruct Am. on the
French model - Frances Way -

There is no such tendency! - Cog. this incited heretofore
are not a tendency in the Church - but a rash and
a boil.

Should reject - disavow - sever, hate - Un-Christian for
of Am. democ.

7/ Federal Govt; too, - should investigate - U.S. Atty. Gen. Robert
Jackson.

Dies - all too benignant - most dangerous Far. int.

8. Confused - Nazism - discrepancy - Nazi-Farist alliance.
Will show men confused - more reckless -

9. Will show him out - rel. charlatan.

The COMMONWEAL

VOLUME XXXI

January 26, 1940

NUMBER 14

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The Hypnotized

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It might seem fantastic, of course, that seventeen men should think they could overthrow our government (even Hitler failed in his beer hall); the tragic part of it is that they undoubtedly conceived of themselves as true patriots and Christians while they dreamed their sanguinary dream. The alarming thing is that for their state of mind Catholics are largely responsible, and we shall continue to be responsible for the creation of other groups of hypnotized men, who may carry out

their scheming with more tragic results, until we all recognize and nullify the powerful propaganda which directly creates them.

Father Coughlin, the Brooklyn *Tablet*, *Social Justice* and their many abettors and sympathizers must bear the direct responsibility for the plight of these seventeen young men. For months the *Tablet's* correspondence columns have been the free public forum for the national director of the group, John F. Cassidy. It will not do to say that divergent views have appeared in the same column—letters in that column are picked and chosen, and besides, that is eeling out of it.

In its issue dated only a few days before the arrest of Cassidy & Co., the *Tablet* printed an excoriating editorial ridiculing the Mayor of New York and his police for keeping tabs on street meetings at which "representatives of certain organizations spoke and at which our Jewish fellow-citizens were adversely criticized." That is, of course, eely writing. No names are mentioned. But only the Christian Front comes to the reader's mind.

Father Coughlin has talked of "Franco's way . . . Christian American forces unite to the last man. . . . Rest assured we will fight you and we will win. . . . The Christian Way is the peaceful way until, all argument having failed, all civil authority having failed, there is left no other way but the way of defending ourselves against the invaders of our spiritual and national rights. . . ." That, too, is eely writing, as are the qualifications, amounting to contradictions, which pepper every essay or speech emanating from the Radio Priest. But he, himself, supplies a clue to his real meaning: "Call this inflammatory, if you will. It is inflammatory."

Well, the flames reached the hearts of seventeen—perhaps many more of whom we know nothing; they acknowledge the leadership of the men who set them afire, and they are in jail awaiting trial, but Father Coughlin says he had nothing to do it with. "Buy Christian for Christmas." It wasn't inflammatory, after all. . . .

A Lone-Wolf Hemisphere

THE BOAST of a navy second to none is no longer enough for American big navy advocates. At the hearings on the Vinson Superiority Bill, for instance, Admiral Stark said we must be prepared to take Price on by ourselves the combined forces of Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia at one and the same time. What a yardstick for determining legitimate national defense expenditures! On this basis defense expenditures for the next two or three years are estimated at astronomical figures. It is not surprising that the army chimes in for its share with Secretary Woodring's modest request for at least \$300,-

000,000 extra for ordnance and engineering items and Assistant Secretary Louis Johnson's objective of arms and munitions for an army of 1,000,000 men. The American people must pay dearly if Congress bows to those who maintain that single-handed against the fantastic coalition listed above we must be able to defend our shores, possessions, trade routes and the Monroe Doctrine. The people will have to pay drastically increased taxes, work relief and farm benefits will have to be cut well below the family subsistence level and all-important public health work will be badly curtailed. At the same time the other nations of the world will be spurred farther along the fatal Australian pursuit race toward the tantalizing mirage of armament superiority. How rally popular support against big army and navy extremists? If the United States is to be a force for peace in these critical days, the government must not give way to unreasoning fear. And it is folly to seek the peace we want singlehanded.

The Trade Agreements Act

THE TARIFF FIGHT threatens to become as big a political issue this year as it used to be in the classic ages of American politics. Even accepting some of the arguments for the terribly high duties customary in the past, it must be admitted now by even the most rabid protectionists that times have changed. Now the United States is a creditor rather than debtor nation. American industry has grown up until, indeed, it is more developed than anywhere else. Nations are more and more governing their trade relations by new and extra-tariff methods: bartering and quota regulations, for instance. Fewer undeveloped lands are willing to remain dependent on exports of raw materials and imports of manufactured goods. More nations are aiming at more or less complete self-sufficiency. Cartels have risen and declined, but can rise again to get around political duties. The balance in American industry has shifted toward the great automobile manufacturers and exporters.

But the principal question, after all, is still whether we should have a higher or lower tariff. That it should be lower seems almost too obvious to argue about. The effort to get agriculture behind a demand for a rise is particularly fantastic. Farmers have a terrific leverage in tariff matters precisely because it is recognized that industrial tariffs have been at their particular expense. It would be very slick if farmers, ignoring the fundamental position of their export industry and forgetting the traditional farm protests against protection, could be worked into fighting reciprocal agreements and demanding higher rates for themselves and thus helping to lift the whole schedule.

The reciprocal trade law, which runs out in June, provides a method of reducing to some extent the suicidal Smoot-Hawley duties which contrasts favorably with the paralyzing log-rolling methods of Congressional tariff activity. If you want a low tariff, the principal objections to the new method may be first, the centralization of power under the executive. The second objection is perhaps most important right now: the executive control over tariffs can be used as a new, "flexible" instrument of national policy in power diplomacy, and as a means of interference in foreign countries. Trade negotiations and trading can be more easily carried on as a trade war by this method than by the old. To the extent one likes or dislikes the executive's general foreign policy one must approve or object to enforcing it with the reciprocal trade powers. Still, considering all objections, the Smoot-Hawley tariff continues to be disastrously high. Until business becomes disillusioned with piratical duties or Congressmen learn how to resist business men's pressure, there is no unobjectionable way out.

Hutchins vs. Kieran on Football

COMPLAINTS about college football are common enough. Every so often the Carnegie Foundation gives statistics on those who are capitalizing on bulky frames, stout hearts and superior coordination to pay their academic way, or some coach is quitting because of lack of material when the administration decides to cut down on athletic scholarships, or some high school halfback can't make up his mind which of a score of institutions of higher learning will pay him the highest salary. No one takes the amateur status of "big-time" football players very seriously. Mr. Hutchins, who has consistently upheld a rather severe ideal of college life, made a lot of good points in explaining the dropping of football by the University of Chicago. Spring training and fall training and distant trips undoubtedly take up a lot of time; big games do distort the function of college in the public mind; football does develop into big business (\$115,000 guarantee to each team for one Rose Bowl game, for instance). John Kieran of the *New York Times* and "Information Please" counters with a familiar line of argument: it is not the game but its abuses. He would keep the game for all its benefits to spectators and players and eliminate the principal evils by abolishing gate receipts. This suggestion is stronger logically than in actuality. A sound educational program would include both intramural athletic contests and intercollegiate spectacles for the many. Root or branch, that is the question. From all accounts an evening at "The Male Animal" at the Cort Theatre would suggest a happy answer.

Ebb and
Flow

Root
or
Branch

Detroit Have Na- tional Biennial Council

Detroit is to have the Union of American Hebrew Congregation's National Biennial Council May 4 to 8, 1941, according to a decision reached Sunday at the annual meeting of the U. A. H. C. executive board in Cincinnati.

Made up of over 300 congregations throughout the U. S. and Canada, the Union is known as the parent body of Liberal Judaism in America. More than 2,000 delegates and visitors are expected to attend the 1941 meeting to discuss development of the Union's 10-year program of increased service to religion and democracy. The Union program is in harmony with President Roosevelt's recent call for co-operation of religious groups in the solution of world problems. **Milton M. Alexander Re-Elected to Board of Managers**

Milton M. Alexander of Detroit was re-elected to the Board of Managers of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations' Department of Synagogue and School Extension at the annual meeting of the Union Executive Board meeting just held in Cincinnati.

An advertising counsellor, Mr. Alexander is known as the man who directed, in 1935-36, the Michigan State and Cook County, Ill., advertising campaign for delinquent taxes. He was the founder of the Jewish Center Association and served as its first president. Mr. Alexander is affiliated with Detroit's Temple Beth El, a Union member.

in Detroit during the sessions of the Council of Federations and Welfare Funds and will speak at a dinner arranged by the American Jewish Congress, at 6 p. m., at Hotel Statler.

Prominent national leaders of the American Jewish Congress, including Louis Lipsky, vice president, will be present to address this dinner, reservations for which may be made by calling Mrs. Nathan Spevakow, president of the Women's Division of the Congress, Ty. 6-6402, or Mrs. Albert Feldstein, secretary of the Detroit Chapter of the Congress, Cherry 6559.

measure of hope and comfort to our fellow Jews everywhere."

Governor Luren D. Dickinson of Michigan, in a message addressed to Mr. Srere, welcomes the delegates as follows:

"It gives me sincere pleasure to welcome the delegates of the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. I trust that your stay in our state will be full of both pleasure and profit to all of your member organizations.

See GREETINGS—Page 16

for the protection of the civil and religious rights of Jews throughout the world. Other officers re-elected were Hon. Abram I. Elkus, honorary vice president; Judge Irving Lehman and Louis E. Kirstein, Boston, vice presidents; and Samuel D. Lienesdorf, treasurer. Sol M. Stroock, chairman of the executive committee, presided at the morning session, and Judge Lehman presided at the luncheon which followed. Richard C. Rothschild, chairman of the survey committee, presented a report on the educa-

See COMMITTEE—Page 2

World Congress gates Extremely Pessimistic

NEW YORK.—The prediction that one million Jews will die in Europe within the coming year as a result of outright murder and starvation by the Nazis in the territory occupied by Germany was made by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the administrative committee of the World Jewish Congress, and by Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, chairman of the British section of the same organization, who arrived in the United States Jan. 17 aboard the SS. Vulcania.

Dr. Goldmann and Dr. Perlzweig are here at the invitation of the American Jewish Congress to bring home to the Jews of America the needs and the aspirations of European Jewry and the hopes that they repose in the help which the American community, Jewish and non-Jewish, may give to save Jewish life from complete destruction.

Place Hope in U. S.

Speaking for himself and Dr. Perlzweig, as the direct emissaries of the 39 Jewish communities of the world represented in the World Jewish Congress, Dr. Goldmann stated that the chief hope of European Jewry is that America may be aroused to take immediate steps and to plan for a future which will release them from the Nazi concentration camp in which they live today.

"European Jewry feels that this can and should be done with-

Coughlin and Christian Front Condemned Throughout Land; Investigation Is Urged By Professors, Clergymen, Labor Leaders

Radio Priest Takes Stand Beside the 17 Arrested on Charge of Plotting to Overthrow U. S. Government; Reveal Cassidy Tried to Destroy Records

The Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, who last week "roundly disavowed" the specific Christian Front involved in the arrests of 17 New Yorkers by the United States Government on charges of treason, in his sermon last Sunday criticized newspaper accounts of the recent arrests of the 17 men in New York on charges of plotting to overthrow the United States Government and took his stand with the Christian Front.

"While I do not belong to any unit of the Christian Front," Coughlin said, "nevertheless I do

not disassociate myself from that movement. I reaffirm every word which I have said in advocating its formation; I re-encourage the Christians of America to carry on in this crisis for the preservation of Christianity and Americanism, more vigorously than ever despite this thinly veiled campaign launched by certain publicists and their controllers to villify both the name and the principles of this pro-American, pro-Christian Frontiers," Father Coughlin declared.

"I take my stand beside the

Christian Frontiers," Father Coughlin declared. "Recognizing also that in one sense the opposition to Communism is on trial, I freely choose to be identified as a friend of the accused. It matters not whether they be guilty or innocent; be they ardent followers of the principles of Christianity or the betrayers of them, my place is by their side until they are released or convicted."

See COUGHLIN—Page 3

See CONGRESS—Page 13

The animated organizations reporting have increased their amounts over last year by at least one-third.

No official reports have as yet been received by the individual teams but unofficially their indications of results have been excellent.

For this week organizational talks at Palestine evenings will be presented in Yiddish and English by C. Kochinsky and Morris Lieberman. A luncheon Monday noon at Webster Hall will take place with the leaders of the various teams and committees reporting to Morris Schaver and planning the final steps of the campaign.

Activities of Bnai David Sisterhood

Bible classes under the direction of Rabbi Joshua Sperka are held every Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the rabbi's study at the synagogue, Elmhurst and Fourteenth Aves. At these classes book reviews are given, preceding the Bible class. At the next meeting Rabbi Sperka will review "The Nazarene" by Sholem Asch.

This organization had its victory luncheon on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at the Wilshire. Mrs. Roy Chatlin, president, initiated the new members, and Mrs. Leonard Canner, secretary, read the constitution. Mrs. Joshua Sperka spoke on Chamisho Osor b'Shvat.

An evening of games has been planned for Monday, Feb. 12, at 8:30 o'clock, in the Bnai David Social Hall. Tickets can be obtained by contacting the chairman, Mrs. Feigelman.

historian, Elizabeth Shapiro; President, Bessie Silverman; senior vice-president, Rose Cantor; junior vice-president, Roth Bolhower; secretary, Yetta Stearns; treasurer, Lee Walt; judge advocate, Elizabeth Shapiro; chaplain, Mae Ginsburg; conductress, Sarah Kort; trustees, Ruth Goldberg, Dorothy Potiker, Birdie Rosenberg; guard, Mabel Gray.

On Feb. 18, a joint installation with Posts 190 and 135 co-operating with the auxiliary, will take place at the Masonic Temple, at 4 p. m., followed by a dinner dance at 7 p. m. Speakers of prominence, including Congressman Clarence J. McLeod, and national officers, will be present. For information call Harry Carsons, Cadillac 4613, or Eva Mann, Townsend 8-9160.

At the last meeting the charter was draped in memory of Sarah Freedman, a member who passed away Dec. 28, and a memorial fund was started. No disposition of the fund has as yet been planned.

Zviller Banquet Sunday

The 12th anniversary banquet and dance of the Bessie Sorin Zviller Ladies Aid Society will be held on Sunday evening, Jan. 28, at 5:30 p. m., at Schiff and Moss, 114 Erskine St. For reservations call the chairman of the ticket committee, Mrs. L. Alter, Townsend 5-2310, or the president, Mrs. M. Pevin, Townsend 8-6849. Mrs. H. Epstein will be chairman of the evening and will be assisted by Mesdames Weisman, Reznik and Zager. A special meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 29, at 1 p. m., at 2261 Calvert Ave., for a count of tickets and monies received.

dent of the United States to bring the three great religions in America into cooperation with the Vatican to formulate and effectuate the religio-ethical basis of peace." Gratification was expressed that Dr. Cyrus Adler "was invited by Mr. Roosevelt to lead the Jews of America in this holy cooperative endeavor."

The effect on American public opinion of the "alliance of Red and Brown Bolshevism and the Hitler war, which that alliance had made possible," according to the report, resulted in the discrediting of "both the Nazi and Soviet regimes and everything associated with either of them, including the Nazi anti-Jewish propaganda, so widely copied in the scribblings of American demagogues."

The report continued:

"More and more, right-thinking Americans are coming to the conclusion that anti-Semitic propaganda is simply a smoke-screen behind which the enemies of democracy can work most effectively. There is a growing realization in the American mind that it was such divisive forces which played no small part in plunging Europe into war; and that if America is to remain at peace, it must prevent such tactics from making headway here. For, in the last analysis, group hatreds, by setting religion against religion, race against race, and class against class, are the seeds which, more than anything else, weaken a nation in the face of danger."

ADAMS—In "My Son Is Guilty." New York's "Hell's Kitchen" is again the locale for a crime melodrama.

Monday evening, Jan. 29, Purity Chapter No. 359, O. E. S., will initiate a class of candidates, at which time the group will also be host to the Detroit Shrine No. 20, who will give an exhibition drill. Refreshments will be served at the close of the meeting.

On Monday, Feb. 5, Purity Chapter will sponsor a mah jong and bridge luncheon at the Eastern Star Temple, 80 W. Alexandrine Ave., at 12:30 p. m. The public is invited to attend.

Mrs. Eva Mann is worthy matron of Purity Chapter.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of my dear husband, Joseph Weil, who passed away 16 years ago, Jan. 29, 1924.

Sadly missed by his wife, Sophia Weil.

J.C.R.S. was held at the Webster Hall on Jan. 23, followed by a luncheon. The guest speaker was Rabbi Joshua S. Sperka who installed the officers as follows: Mrs. Henry Greenberg, honorary president; Mrs. Jack Golds, president; Mrs. Emil Edelson and Mrs. Albert Feinstein, vice presidents; Miss Kate Wedes, financial secretary; Mrs. Louis Golds, recording secretary; Mrs. B. Denter, treasurer; Mrs. William Schwartz, publicity; trustees, Mrs. Frank Novograd, Mrs. Louis Pleas, Mrs. Albert Millman, Mrs. Isadore Seedman, Mrs. Rose Gould; Mrs. Albert Finstien, flower fund.

The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Emil Edelson, 3784 Cortland. Plans will be discussed for the donor luncheon and theater supper party.



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INSTITUTE FOR PROPAGANDA ANALYSIS, INC.

40 EAST FORTY-NINTH STREET; NEW YORK CITY

Volume III

JANUARY 20, 1940

Number 5

What Is the Christian Front?

NOW that seventeen members of the so-called Christian Front have been arrested in New York, charged by the Department of Justice with attempting to overthrow the Government of the United States, page-one newspaper stories are making the American people suddenly aware that Father Charles E. Coughlin, of the Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak, Michigan, has created an organization in the cities of the industrial East, which can only be described as fascist—an organization whose members talk of killing the Jews and blasting their way to power with guns and dynamite.

If the news has surprised anyone, the reason is only that New York newspapers until now have attempted to play down the activities of this Christian Front as much as possible, reporting them only in occasional two or three paragraph stories, hidden somewhere in the financial pages. During the past year, more than 200 members of the Christian Front have been arrested in New York, either for acts of violence or for inciting others to violence. Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia has sent investigators to dozens of Christian Front meetings—investigators who have invariably been spotted by the speakers and denounced as “the stooges of the little red stinkweed in City Hall.” The Commissioner of Police has been compelled to warn the members of the force against being too lenient with the Front: the organization is composed primarily of Irish Catholics, and many of the New York police, being Irish Catholics themselves, are not unsympathetic. The files of the Police Department’s criminal alien squad are bulging with reports on the

leaders of the Front, several of whom have long prison records.

(Almost nothing of this has gotten into the papers. It was typical of the *New York Times*, for example, that when the Christian Front attacked members of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Madison Square Garden some months ago, the story was reported fully—except that no mention was made of the Christian Front.)

The Christian Front was started in May, 1938, when the Reverend Charles E. Coughlin urged his followers to form platoons of twenty-five. The progress of the Front has since been reported in detail in Father Coughlin’s weekly, *Social Justice*. Only recently, for example *Social Justice* reported the formation of squads of so-called Minute Men, trained in the use of arms to fight “if and when it became necessary.” Story after story has told of meetings of the Christian Front, some of them addressed by Father Coughlin, himself, over long-distance telephone.

It was John F. Cassidy, now under arrest, who formed the first platoons. At first, he did so with the help of the Paulist Fathers, who permitted him to use their home as the headquarters of the Front. Later, the Paulist Fathers were to drop the Front, when it began to engage in street fights and in mass attacks on isolated “Jews.” (The members of the Front have not always been able to distinguish Jews from Christians who disapprove of their activities.)

(The Christian Front is organized somewhat vaguely. Often the platoons seem to have no direct organizational connection with each other; and meetings, therefore, give the impression of spontaneity. Members of the

Amerikadeutscher Volksbund seem to serve the same purpose within the Front that Communists have served within progressive and labor groups: they are the militant, well-knit minority, who, as they say, "activize the others." Sometimes, leaders of another fascist organization will step in temporarily, as when Allen Zoll, of American Patriots, Inc., led members of the Front in picketing radio station WMCA for refusing to broadcast the speeches of Father Coughlin without first seeing his script.

Nevertheless, the platoons have been able to work together with remarkable smoothness. The members know just what is expected of them, because they listen to Father Coughlin on the air every Sunday and read *Social Justice*, from which they get not only their ideology, but general directives as well.

On January 1, *Social Justice* said: "Father Coughlin is the only spokesman of . . . the Christian Front."

✓ The members of the Christian Front are, for the most part, the poor and discontented. On the fringes of the organization have been some well-to-do members of the community, like Merwin K. Hart, of the New York State Economic Council, and George U. Harvey, president of the Borough of Queens. The rank and file, however, are down at the heels: disgruntled men with frayed collars and unpressed trousers; unhappy housewives from slum tenements on First Avenue or Tenth Avenue or Amsterdam Avenue; youngsters of twenty or twenty-one, who have never worked, and have little hope of ever getting jobs "until people like me get into power."

✓ Night after night, they meet in Donovan's Tavern, just off Columbus Circle, at Tri-boro Palace uptown, at Ebling's Casino, and two or three similar places, to voice their discontent. They hold street-corner meetings all over the city, at which soap-box speakers berate the Jews as the cause of depression and war, usually speaking of them as "the Indians," or "the Eskimos," or the "Gefülte-fishes." Invariably there are threats of violence: talk of "blood flowing in the streets of New York."

✓ "We'll have to handle those Eskimos the Franco way," the speakers will say.

✓ "The Franco way" is Father Coughlin's phrase. It reflects the belief that Francisco Franco resorted to arms in Spain only to keep the "Communists" from taking over the gov-

ernment. Father Coughlin has several times warned his followers to prepare for just such an eventuality in the United States by arming now. On July 30, 1939, he urged that these men be prepared "to meet force with force." stop

So there has never been any secret within the Christian Front about the military nature of the organization. The application blank for membership—it costs \$1 to join and the monthly dues are 25 cents—requires applicants to list their military experience.

However, the members of the Christian Front do not consider themselves revolutionists. They believe they are resorting to force only "in self-defense." They have been convinced by Father Coughlin that "atheistic Jews" and Communists are insidiously taking over the Government of the United States, and that direct action is needed to stop them. In their propaganda-twisted minds, when they speak of dynamiting buildings, murdering Congressmen, and "washing the streets of New York with Jewish blood," they are really planning to re-establish "Constitutional Government."

"Oh, you just don't understand . . ." said one arrested member of the Christian Front, when reporters asked him if the United States "doesn't have Constitutional Government now."

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Staff: Editorial Director, Harold Lavine; Educational Director, Violet Edwards.

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Dictatorship In War Plan

(Continued from Page 1)

150 years. For another thing, the sections relating to the termination of the war emergency are reported to be extremely vague. As a matter of fact, "the Plan" provides amply for the continuation of the emergency dictatorship *ad infinitum*, because it specifies that the dictatorial controls over all civil life may be carried on into the "readjustment" period. The "readjustment" period of the World War of more than 20 years ago is still with us.

But not alone will labor lose under the **Industrial Mobilization Plan of 1939**. Every person over 16 would be subject to the dictates of an administration empowered to fix prices of all articles of commerce and every commodity.

Super-Government Would Take Over

Incomes may be taxed up to 93 per cent, and profits can be seized outright—100 per cent! The President of the United States will be empowered to fix all wages, and to license all business. Censorship of press, radio, and motion pictures will be in effect; personal liberties will be interdicted.

Three distinct steps to war are to be taken by the President, under the "Plan"; the actual declaration of war, thereafter, will be practically automatic. The first step is to declare an "emergency"—a simple emergency, in which the President is authorized to exercise a certain amount of arbitrary power. The second step is the declaration of a "national emergency." Out of this grows the third step, the declaration of the "imminence of war," and the investing of the President with a large share of dictatorial authority.

First Step Already Taken

Now, the first of these three steps already has been taken. President Roosevelt has decreed the "limited emergency," and now rules the nation under the nervous tension arising from the emergency itself. The "emergency," declared in September after the outbreak of a war in Europe, still exists.

Will the second step, the declaration of a "full emergency," be taken? If and when it is taken, then the successive other steps to dictatorship are virtually assured.

The original authorization for the establishment of the War Policies Commission expressly provided that "the commission shall not consider and shall not report upon the conscription of labor." It was, as we've said, to have been a peace mechanism.

How far afield the commission went in its work, and how far officials of the administration have moved in their effort to set up dictatorial controls of the nation, is evidenced in the subsequent revisions of the **Industrial Mobilization Plan of 1931**. Not only is labor conscripted; all males from 18 to 45 are required to register for possible military service, and all members of the civilian population who could be used, directly or indirectly, in conducting the war also will be required to register.

"According to the **Mobilization Plan**," concludes Mr. Woll's warning, to labor, "the Government will keep its iron grip on the nation's economic life, and its dictatorial control over labor after the war is over. For how long? Until the 'post-war readjustment' is completed, apparently. That may mean six months, ten years, or forever. The World War ended 21 years ago and 'post-war readjustment' has not yet been finished."

Editorial

Now that England and the Jews are battling desperately against Nazism, Atty. Gen. Frank Murphy of the United States finds a plot. Among the "plotters" are Michael Joseph Beirne, "born in Ireland," Andrew Buckley, "born in Ireland," John F. Cassidy, Leroy Keegan, George Kelly, Frank Michael Malone, John M. Ryan, Edward Walsh and Alfred J. Quinlan.

The charges consist of conspiracy to kill twelve Members of Congress, bomb the American League for Peace and Democracy, bomb the *Daily Worker* (Communist Party organ), bomb the Cameo Theater in Times Square showing Russian motion pictures, and bomb railroad bridges.

"The Arsenal" was worthy of Gilbert and Sullivan in their best day.

The law under which the charges are made is Section 6, Title 18 of the United States Code covering "seditious conspiracy."

Atty. Gen. Murphy was in New York for the round-up.

If there is any plot within the United States to overthrow the government or any plot in the United States where an armed uprising is planned, success to Murphy and to G. Edgar Hoover in uncovering and prosecuting the guilty.

For hundreds of years parallel procedure in respect to discovering plots has emanated from the British government in respect to the Irish.

John Bull, in trouble, could always discover a revolution, always could discover a cache of arms and always the Empire was in danger from a man or a little group of men who had incurred the enmity of those in high office.

Yet, good luck to Murphy and Hoover and may they have the courage to apprehend the known revolutionists of atheistic Russia who have already announced their sovereignty over every foot of American territory and who have plotted consistently since 1917 for the overthrow of our Government.

Good luck "Murph" and may that sword which was found be not a "Fenian" sword for then the danger of Revolution may be real and the Empire of "Bull" may once more be able to smear the Irish.

My Position Towards Organizations

From SOCIAL JUSTICE, August 14, 1939

PERMIT ME to clarify my position in connection with the broadcast of Sunday, July 30th, relative to the Christian Front.

First and foremost, let all those who are interested in either organizing the Christian Front or joining it understand that I am neither the organizer nor the sponsor of the Christian Front; and moreover, that it is not becoming for me to identify myself with this organization or any other organization.

From time to time, fine zealous persons have approached me to associate myself with various organizations. To protect any usefulness that I may have as a public speaker, I resolved, following the experience of the National Union in 1936, to hold absolutely aloof from all organizations. I must not depart from this policy even in the case of the Christian Front.

However, if Christians as individuals or as groups desire to establish a Christian Front with the objective in mind of incorporating the spirit and the doctrines of Christianity into our social life, that is commendable. Nevertheless, as a clergyman, I do not find it compatible to identify myself with any movement in any way whatsoever. I prefer to remain entirely outside all organizations.

As a clergyman, I do not find it irregular to support labor unions in general, even though labor unions, in some instances, have been responsible through some of their members and leaders for seizure of property and contempt of law. However, I do not belong to any of them; I do not attempt, except as an outsider, to sustain or direct them.

Thus, as I support labor unions, so can I support a Christian Front whose advertised principles and whose officers propose to defend Christianity against the unjust aggressions of anti-Christian forces, even though some members of the Christian Front will be deserving, by reason of their ill-advised actions, of just criticism. * * *

Therefore, while I encourage you to carry on in the spirit of Christ and in the spirit of America, I am sure that I can be of more service to the cause by refraining from participating in it either as an active member, an active officer, or an active organizer, and by continuing to be a voice that is friendly to your cause and to every other good cause without participating in their activities.

What I have said relative to myself also holds good for SOCIAL JUSTICE Magazine.

CHAS. E. COUGHLIN

U. S. Cracks Down On Christian Front

With These Guns Could 18 Men Overthrow U. S.?

With the following equipment 18 men in New York City were plotting to "overpower the United States army, overthrow the United States Government, establish a dictatorship, 'eradicate' all Jews, seize all public utilities, including power, water, communications and all forms of transportation," according to information furnished J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

15 partly completed bombs (several of those shown in newspaper photographs were made of soup cans).

18 cans of cordite powder.

Twelve 30.06 Springfield rifles.

Four .22-caliber rifles.

One .32 automatic pistol.

One .20-gauge shotgun.

One .45 Springfield rifle.

Three ammunition belts with 750 rounds of machine gun ammunition.

One empty machine gun belt.

Two nightsticks.

One pound of semi-smokeless powder.

One sword.

3,500 rounds of 30.06 caliber ammunition.

500 rounds of .22 caliber ammunition.

Two boxes of safety squibs.

Pipe, sulphur, tin tubing, fuses, etc. for manufacture of bombs.

One 1-pound can containing 4 detonators and several cordite powder primers.

2 1/2 feet of dynamite fuse.

1 broken box of .32 caliber ammunition.

1 box of miscellaneous ammunition.

Cache of Arms in Sports Club Seized in Raid; 18 Members Held

(Special to SOCIAL JUSTICE)

NEW YORK, N. Y.—F.B.I. Chief J. Edgar Hoover spoke the truest word of his life when he described as "fantastic" the alleged plot against the United States Government supposedly cooked up by the "Christian Front" under the direction of John F. Cassidy.

After swooping down on the "Sports Club"—an organization purportedly stemming from the Christian Front—Hoover's G-Men, operating under the personal direction of "retiring" Attorney General Frank Murphy, seized 11 Irishmen, 7 other individuals, 18 rifles, 10 or 15 soup can bombs, bullets, explosive fuses and chemicals.

On the basis of this seizure, the nation is informed these men "plotted the assassination of 12 Congressmen, national revolution, overthrow of the United States Government, and the establishment of a dictatorship."

Truly, this is "fantastic."

Christian Front Reaction to Reds

There can be no defense of sedition. If the individuals involved can be shown to be guilty of sedition; guilty of plotting a revolution, or of plotting the destruction of a single life, they should meet with proper punishment. With that everyone is in accord.

However, the Christian Front—not the "Sports Club"—came into being as an active protest against the activities of Communists, Reds, Pinkos and assorted Leftist radicals in New York and elsewhere. The only reason for the birth of the Christian Front was the threat to domestic tranquility kept alive by strident Communists. The only reason for its continuance was the threat to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness made patent in every political activity of New York's Communists, shown to be directed from Moscow.

Attorney General Murphy, in the dying days of his administration, promised this "investigation." Having proceeded against Earl Browder, Robert Wiener, and other Communists on charges of passport fraud, perhaps he believed that a "Christian Front expose" would temper the wrath of groups aroused by the Browder prosecution.

If Attorney General Murphy, associate Justice-designate of the Supreme Court of the United States, has done the nation a service by saving it from destruction at the hands of 11 Irish-Americans, seven other men, and 18 rifles, 15 bombs and a sword, then may the light of glory form a halo above his reddish brown head.

Father Coughlin's Invitation Resented

But if, instead, this seizure and investigation is nothing but another smear directed against an active anti-Communist group in the name of Americanism, then the memory of this hysteria may haunt the former Attorney General in the day of his greatest achievement—his rise to the Supreme Bench of justice in the United States.

More than a year ago, on November 20, 1938, Father Coughlin called

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FROM THE TOWER

Can Man Catch Up with the Machine?

Radio address delivered Sunday, January 14, 1940, by Rev.

Chas. E. Coughlin, (All Rights for Reproduction Reserved).

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Be of good heart: One of the most important moral developments of the past few years is associated with the desire and determination on the part of employers to solve scientifically the riddle of mass production unemployment — the riddle which has baffled armchair sociologists.

Last week I received a thought-provoking letter on this subject from a coal and mining executive who employs 6,000 men. I shall read his letter and attempt to answer the questions he proposed to me for the consideration of this interested and intelligent audience. The letter reads as follows:

"The program committee of the X Club has assigned me the subject of 'Can Man Catch Up with the Machine?' and I would appreciate very much your personal opinion on this subject—it is very important.

"We mine bituminous coal and employ 6,000 men. When we are fully mechanized we will have laid off about 1,000 men. I realize that the general thought is that these men will be employed in the manufacturing of these machines. But, to start with, this type of labor and the age of these men will make it practically impossible for them to even do this type of work, and besides the automobile and steel plants and machine shops are reducing their personnel and have the same problem. Industry is using the best talent and research for improving its machinery so as to lower their costs and in many instances to just maintain their present business. Of course, no corporation can afford to maintain these extra men, and if industry doesn't take care of them the government must—and in the end the industry must pay for this in the way of taxes.

"These men cannot go 'Out West' because there is no 'West' any more. There is plenty of land on which they could raise everything they need for themselves and their families, but a bricklayer today earns more in an hour than a farmer does in 12 hours.

"It is estimated that there are 9,000,000 people unemployed right now. Possibly 3,000,000 of them are not physically or mentally able to go into industry. It is very difficult to give any specific plan as to how we are going to keep labor employed while we modernize our plants. Man created the machine to be his servant, but sometimes I feel that the man becomes the servant of the machine. I know many people say that we will discover new industries. For instance, what will they be? Should industry give more attention to the men replaced by machinery, or should that be government's responsibility? Please let me know your opinion on this vital subject."

Old Time Trades

Routed by Machine

My friends, this is a most intelligent analysis of one of the greatest problems facing our civilization. In a certain sense, it is not a series of questions that my correspondent addressed to me. It is, I repeat, a complete presentation in itself of the problem. The basic question is: "Can man catch up with the machine?"

I shall try to answer it plainly and factually.

Since the year 1760—an arbitrary date used as a peg upon which to hang the Industrial Revolution —

since the year 1760 one of the cruellest recurrent factors in our social life has been the dismissal of individuals from their traditional employments because of technological development. Most persons in this audience will recall the one-time appearance on the porches or window jambs of our boyhood communities such signs as, "Dressmaker," "Seamstress," "Hemstitching." Those signs are seen no longer. Many of these old time domestic trades have disappeared before the almost universal new West though not geographical, adoption of the electric sewing machine and of the tailor-made, or ready-made, clothing.

Gone are most of the spinners, the weavers, the fullers and the dyers who, one by one, decades ago, were thrown out of employment by the growth of the mechanical textile industry, never to be re-occupied. By the same token, most stagecoach drivers did not become locomotive engineers, most mulesters on the Erie Canal did not become locomotive firemen; most teamsters did not find employment as truck drivers, nor did the horse-shoers become managers of super-service gas stations.

The tragedy in hundreds of thousands of instances has been that this type of labor, due to technological development, did not profit individually by such development.

Our Own Homes

Better Than Dad's

More important than mere population, is the increased demand the higher standard of living demanded by each succeeding generation over that of the preceding. The increase of population by 12-million odd a year I consider as a secondary factor when compared to the increasing family demands of the modern era. It needs no profound economist, no abstruse logician to support this thesis. In your own homes you become profound economists as you pause to take inventory of the very house and its contents and compare them to your father's home.

In place of the base-burner there is, perhaps, the central heating plant. In place of mere thickness of wall, there is modern insulation. In place of wood or coal there is, perhaps, the oil burner. In place of the hand shovel there may be the automatic stoker. The modern home with its air conditioning, prepared roofing, floor coverings, incandescent lamps, telephone, radio, running water, bath facilities, laundry, washing machine, package suds and flakes, vacuum cleaner, modern refrigeration, gas or electric stove and household utilities, is proof positive of new markets secured through inventive genius. When we pause to count such blessings, it is evident that the dismissed, through technical development, are consistently replaced in the labor market through men and women employed to manufacture these new uses and new inventions.

The motor car brought in its wake

the multiplications of hotels, restaurants, roadhouses, cabins, tourist camps and barbecues, while in the crowded city the cafeterias, the automat and the dairy lunch marked a new day for profitable labor.

Almost countless the list of new occupations grows through new devices, new things such, for example, as the cigarette, the expanding fur market, silk hosiery, the confectionery which were not common one hundred years ago. . . .

We Have a New

Frontier Opportunity

While it is true that, through the development of labor-saving machines, men are theoretically dismissed from labor, yet in lowering the price, in broadening the market and in passing on profits to consumers, more men are required to make a million cars than were needed to make a hundred thousand.

The new frontier of industry, the is nevertheless, real. Now that the human race has settled down, it is our everlasting task to rebuild a civilization which meets the modern demand for new standards of living and new things.

For example, we should re-house America. In stating this I am not merely referring to the frightful obsolescence which has occurred since the collapse of the building industry in 1926; I am not considering that we are 14 years behind our normal building program. I am thinking of a regeared, a revitalized, modernized America which can decently shelter its people in and about our great industrial centers. Let us abandon the slum houses, the ill-ventilated, crowded, filthy, unsanitary dwellings which are out of keeping with the character, the worth, the dignity as well as the economic value of the human beings destined to dwell in this nation. There, my esteemed sir, is the nucleus of a program of national defense worthy of our consideration.

I am inclined to remark that it is one of the most ridiculous things in the world to see America on wheels transported easily at 60 miles an hour in closed cars, with windows of glass, with heaters, with air conditioning, costing as little as \$600, and then not to be able to produce a clean, efficient, sanitary, beautiful home on a half-acre lot for \$3,000.

Many Improvements

Need to be Done

There is a new frontier in America. It is in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, in every large city. Moreover, the new frontier of America is represented by farm electricity, farm power and lighting, highway lighting, the abolition of thousands of grade crossings, the development of electric power for our natural resources, the storage facilities essential to accommodate our great mineral and agricultural raw materials produced in periods of abundance.

The buying power of the people, when expanded, automatically expands new inventions, new uses, new

production. And by the same token the steady or unexpanded buying power of the people may retard technological development and keep production and progress at a standstill. It is regrettable that when a depression sets in upon a nation, many keen manufacturers struggle with declining markets to preserve the essential profit of the capitalistic system. It is regrettable that many turn avidly to labor-saving devices in order to dismiss labor and save all possible burden of wages. That unsound course, I pray, has been run; that policy of greed—or, better still—of fear, has passed. Today we are beginning to entertain a new thought relative to the depression. Possibly this chronic depression will be a benediction in disguise. It may arouse us to think more clearly, to seek more diligently for a greater "West" which the veil of greed, of self-complacency, hid from our eyes.

At the start of this answer to your letter I referred to the year 1760 as the accepted time of the Industrial Revolution. From that day on until 1920, the God-given intelligence of man produced a succession of major inventions which revolutionized the industrial world. From the spinning-jenny and the power-loom down to the contribution of the radio and television, there was one continuous series of revolutionary inventions that rebuilt industry as industry absorbed the youth and employed millions upon millions of our increasing population.

We Have Run

Away From Problem

The analysis of what really happened is beside the point at present. All that we are concerned with is that we ran away from a problem and did not face it. All that we are concerned with at the moment is that we let the machine enslave the man. Industry, government, science—and America—chose to follow a new patron saint—none other than Rip Van Winkle. We slept and dreamed of disaster!

My friend, let's awake! Rub the mist of the Catskills from our eyes! View the magic West unfolded before us. Recognize that God gave us inventions to be used to help mitigate the primeval curse of thorns and thistles—the same God who gave us populations to be fed, clothed and sheltered according to our modern standard.

Go West, young man, go West! It takes courage to say farewell to the obsolete East. But, nothing ventured, nothing gained.

The machine has solved the problem of production—and no one questions that. Our problem is one of distribution and consumption.

How can the general public purchase the products of our factories, fields and mines unless they have that seemingly mysterious thing called money?

Let's cash the obsolete method of debt distribution. Let's cease pondering upon charts which tell us how business is and begin as real leaders should begin by planning how business should be and can be.

The past twenty years have proven that the machine will devour the man if we persist in paying our working men a less than living wage; if we persist in piling up debts instead of real wealth; and if we fail in discovering a solution for the problem of distribution.