

Social Justice, July 24, 1939, p. 3, col. 4:

8,500 in Two Packed Halls Hear Father Coughlin in Philadelphia

Cheer Voice Suppressed by Radio Censor

Message to Labor Gets Rousing Reception

Philadelphia, Pa.--More than 8,500 enthusiastic crusaders for social justice from Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware jammed two Philadelphia halls on Friday evening, July 14, to hear the voice of Father Coughlin which has been denied them for seven months through un-American censorship imposed by the czars of radio.

Mass meetings at the Metropolitan Opera House and the grand ballroom of the Broadwood hotel were filled and thousands more were unable to gain entrance.

The voice of Father Coughlin came to Philadelphia through loud speakers from the Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak. His message to labor, heard by the rest of the nation on Sunday, was loudly cheered by both halls. He called upon American labor to clean house of politicians and self-seeking radicals and make its choice of leadership between the "atheistic Jew Karl Marx or the Christian Jew, Jesus Christ."

Father Coughlin praised the heroism and zeal of the Christian Front in those areas where its work has already borne fruit, and urged Philadelphians to emulate their Christianity and Americanism.

Vociferous cheers and applause greeted his challenge that "if the radio stations continue to bar me from Philadelphia, we are serving notice on them that this meeting will be duplicated every Sunday!"

The Metropolitan Opera House meeting was presided over by Mr. Lawrence C. Downey of Philadelphia; Dr. Edward J. Walsh presided at the Broadwood hotel meeting.

Before the voice of Father Coughlin was heard from Royal Oak, speakers included Judge John A. Matthews of Newark, N. J., Lieut. Bernard T. D'Arcy, chief of the Social Justice forces in the New York area, and Leo F. Reardon, business manager of Social Justice. Lieut. D'Arcy told how New York had sextupled the circulation of Social Justice in five months and paid tribute to the assistance of the powerfully organized Christian Front in Brooklyn, New York City, Queens and the Bronx.

Sketching the formation and growth of the Christian Front, Mr. John Cassidy of New York, head of the organization, pointed out that units of the organization are now in formation in several cities of the eastern seaboard. He announced his desire to extend to David Scannell, chief distributor in Philadelphia, the same co-operation his great organization has given to Social Justice in New York City.