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The 'Tablet' Apes Coughlin in Its Defense of 'Front' Terrorists

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Editor of Anti-Semitic Sheet 'Disavows' and Then 'Defends' Rabid 'Fronters'; Commonweal Lays Blame on Those Who Backed Group

Patrick F. Scanlon, managing editor of the anti-Semitic and Red-baiting "Tablet" maintained by the Roman Catholic diocese of Brooklyn, is even more adept than the man he admires most—Charles E. Coughlin—in "disavowing" and defending the terrorist "Christian Front."

Whereas Coughlin first repudiated and then, confronted with overwhelming evidence, brazenly 'took his stand' with the terrorists now charged with criminal conspiracy, Scanlon denies and admits his support for the "Front" at one and the same time.

Scanlon, in his latest issue of "The Tablet," rushes vigorously to the defense of the arrested plotters. And the same Scanlon, a few days later, rushes vigorously into print with an attempted denial of charges that "The Tablet" has always lent encouragement to the "Front" movement.

But "The Tablet's" denials are shoddy stuff when compared to the "Tablet's" admission. The latest issue of the paper devotes its two main front page stories, its leading editorial, a good part of its Letter Column, and most of the managing editor's own personal column to a defense and justification of the "Front" plotters.

The criminal conspirators now charged with plotting large scale violence against Jews, and with bombing public places in a long-range conspiracy against American democracy, are hailed by "The Tablet" as "patriots" who are being "persecuted" by "anti-Christian" forces.

CALLS FRONT 'PATRIOTIC'

In its editorial, "The Tablet" describes the 17 terrorists as "seemingly poor, unfortunate victims of their own excessive patriotism" and proceeds to charge that "the obvious point of all the publicity in this case is to smear the Christian Front organization and to tie up Father Coughlin with a plot to overthrow the government by force."

Pretending to scoff at the seriousness of the charges against the arrested men, the editorial states that the purpose behind the case is to "smear those whom some would like to label anti-Semitic." At the same time the anti-Christian forces are to be given a holiday of rejoicing.

But among these "anti-Christian" forces is "The Commonweal," one of the leading Catholic publications in this country. In its latest issues, "The Commonweal" reviews "The Tablet" over a period of time, and concludes as follows: "Father Coughlin, the Brooklyn Tablet, Social Justice and their many abettors and sympathizers must bear the direct responsibility for the plight of these 17 young men. For months The Tablet's correspond-

ence columns have been the free public forum for the national director of the group, John F. Cassidy."

Scanlon tries to refute this charge by saying that "in consulting our files for a long period of time, we find exactly one letter in our forum signed John F. Cassidy."

But the editor of The Commonweal cited two dates on which Cassidy letters appeared in the "Tablet," and then pointed out that even a perusal of any the current issue of the paper shows that "its letters, news stories, editorials and managing editor's column have consistently encouraged the organized development of a 'Christian Front' type of suspicious, inflammatory, combative mentality . . ."

DAILY WORKER EXPOSED TIE-UP

And last week the Daily Worker quoted at length from the files of "The Tablet" for several months past, showing that the paper has consistently defended and inspired the "Christian Front" in its anti-Semitic, anti-Communist campaign of violence and law-breaking.

The Daily Worker also showed that Scanlon and Cassidy know each other well, and that the two of them, together with Father Edward Lodge Curran, mentor of "The Tablet," have frequently collaborated on banquets and affairs staged in honor of Charles E. Coughlin. The Daily Worker also revealed that at least on one occasion both Cassidy and Curran spoke from the same platform.

But if this were not enough, there is still the latest issue of "The Tablet." The editorial already quoted continues to justify the aims of the terrorists. "Whatever truth there may be in the allegations," it states, ". . . is grounded in the fear of active Communism."

Correctly crediting Martin Dies with helping to inspire the arrested would-be bombers, the editorial proceeds to state that "if the Daily Worker, the Cameo Theater, the League for Peace and Democracy had been kept under more careful surveillance, there could hardly have been such 'plots' and 'conspiracies' as those now alleged."

And Scanlon himself, in his column entitled "From the Managing Editor's Desk," leaps to their defense, saying, "They came from good families; many are church

members and all but two bear a good reputation in the neighborhoods in which they live. . . . One was captured coming out of a church . . ."

Scanlon describes the case against the terrorists as a "prejudiced, hateful" action of "certain public agencies, including its press" and as a "brazen lynching."