

# Christian Front's Old Line Revived at Meeting Here

By LEO J. MARGOLIN AND LUTHER CONANT, JR. PM 6/1/42



The Christian Front, which went underground immediately after Pearl Harbor, is out in the open again.

This means that, although Charles E. Coughlin's mouthpiece, *Social Justice*, has been banned by U. S. authorities, his followers who preach his line still are doing business which, before Dec. 7, 1941, was pro-Nazism and anti-Semitism.

Coughlin's Fronters held a meeting last Thursday night in a public hall, Star Muenster, Bronx, where they sold back numbers of *Social Justice*, which Attorney General Biddle banned as "clearly seditious."

It was the first time in six months that the Christian Front, which precipitated anti-Semitic street riots in Brooklyn in 1938 and 1939, came out from the cellars and back rooms of saloons under its own name and stripe.

The principal speaker was the Rev. Edward F. Brophy, their spiritual adviser, an outspoken anti-Semite in New York and a staunch Coughlin follower.

Brophy denied at the meeting that he was anti-Semitic, insisting: "I am very pro-Christian."

Then he went into a vicious anti-Semitic speech, singling out for attack Carl Sherman of the American Jewish Congress, who had attacked Edward Lodge Curran, Coughlin's Eastern mouthpiece.

"The days are coming," said Brophy, "when this country will need a Coughlin, and need him badly. We must get strong and keep organized for that day."

Brophy is the author of the anti-Semitic pamphlet, *The Christian Front*, and is the man who told an audience of Fronters that the Declaration of Independence is "a Christian document intended for Christians only."

John Henihan, who was chief aid to Bernard D'Arcy, Eastern *Social Justice* distributor and Christian Front fellow-traveler, was another speaker. D'Arcy is now an army lieutenant.

Henihan reported on Curran's personal *I am an American Day* rally May 17 in Brooklyn. Henihan told the meeting that:

¶ Four members of the New York Police Alien Squad expelled a PM reporter from that meeting. (*The PM reporter who covered the May 17 meeting was not ejected.*)

¶ Curran is so pleased with the success of that meeting that he plans to hold "a bigger and better" one on Flag Day, June 14, when he hopes to get U. S. Senator David I. Walsh as the principal speaker.

¶ Justice Herbert O'Brien, front for the Christian Front, should be supported in his candidacy for Surrogate of Queens County (O'Brien is the man of whom Mayor La Guardia said: "When I make a mistake, it's a beaut.")

¶ Henihan will visit Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago to consult with Christian Front forces there.

¶ Henihan had talked to "an important radio commentator" with connections in Washington, Hollywood and Mexico, who offered to put up \$50,000 for a paper similar to *Social Justice*.

¶ Henihan boasted of his Washington connections, particularly with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In the audience with the Fronters were a few diehard followers of pro-Nazi Joe Mc-

Williams; a number of ex-America First Committee workers; and a scattering of representatives of Patriots of the Republic, another secret Axis-line group.

On sale with *Social Justice* was the weekly *Gaelic American*, for which Curran writes a weekly column.