

# Bishop Flays Boston Talk by Fascist Priest

## Coughlinites Father Curran to Speak at City Ceremony Tonight

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(Special to the Sunday Worker)

BOSTON, March 14.—Despite all protests Brooklyn's fascist priest, Fr. Edward Lodge Curran, will speak at the South Boston high school tomorrow night.

Protests, which already include outspoken statements by patriotic Irish-Americans, leading civic and labor figures, continued to grow today.

Among the latest to register opposition to the meeting, promoted by William B. Gallagher, a local spokesman for Charles Coughlin, was Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, head of the Methodist Church in New England.

Bishop Oxnam said that war was no time "for the presentation of the views and spirit so clearly revealed in Father Curran's record," adding that "divisive proclamations with their anti-Semitic emphasis, anti-British and anti-Russian insinuations, not to mention their fascist sympathies, and attacks upon the President of this nation, should be avoided."

### WOMEN'S PROTEST

An emphatic protest was also registered by Mrs. Edgar J. Driscoll, president of the Boston League of Women Voters. Mrs. Driscoll especially criticized the contribution of \$6,000 by the City of Boston to the Evacuation Day meeting at which Curran will speak. Evacuation Day marks the evacuation of Boston by British troops during the American Revolution.

"If a small group of Boston Citizens," said Mrs. Driscoll, "wish to dishonor an anniversary of our first fight for freedom by having as their speaker a man whose utterances further these tactics, who has devoted himself to isolationism, who has spread racial and religious hatred and intolerance, who has been closely associated with and shared the platform with the convicted Hitler Bund leader Fritz Kuhn, that is perhaps their business."

"But it is the business of every citizen of Boston to protest against any official sanction of such a meeting and to see to it that not a cent of the taxpayers' money is spent for a celebration over which the city has no apparent control and which the mayor cannot possibly approve. The League of Women Voters hopes that all patriotic citizens will join with it in urging that the city officially dissociate itself from the South Boston meeting if Father Curran is to be the speaker."

Others who have protested include Miss Frances Sweeney, speaking for the Irish-American Defense Association; Dr. Albert Sprague Coolidge, chairman of the New England Section of the Union for Democratic Action; Prof. Ralph Barton Perry of Harvard and Joseph Salerno, president of the Massachusetts CIO.

Said Mr. Salerno:

"Hatred is anti-Christian. Any person who teaches hatred under the guise of religion is an enemy of America. The first lesson of Christianity is that we love one another. We need national unity, and it cannot be promoted by meetings of this type."

On Friday afternoon a delegation of 30 prominent citizens held a stormy session with Acting Mayor Linnehan and demanded that the city withdraw its support from the exercises.

The delegation included Salerno, George Markham, CIO legislative agent, Rev. Donald Lothrop, Miss Frances Sweeney of the American Irish Defense Association, Henry Dixon, Commander of the Neponset Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Judge Hyman Kolodny, Rabbi Joseph Shubow, James Marino representing 75 West End air wardens, Mrs. Roland Baker of the Women's City Club, and

Charles MacArthur of the National Maritime Union.

City Hall also received a statement of protest from 40 citizens of Irish descent, among whom were Mrs. Robert Strong, whose husband is fighting in the Philippines; Dr. Charles Mongan, Mrs. Edith Logan, Donald Hurley, Dr. Brainard Conley, Hugh O'Neal Hencken, Edmund Burke, John L. Horan, Grace Lonergan, John J. Moran, Francis X. Dooling and John T. Cavanaugh, II.

Greater Boston citizens also issuing a protest included Prof. Donald Born, attorney; Larue Brown, Professors Samuel Cross, Charles Taylor, Theodore Smith and Allan Forbes, attorney Henry Foley, Edward Coen of the NMU, and John Mitchell.

The delegation which met yesterday with the Acting Mayor today called on the citizens arrangements committee which invited Curran.