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Father Coughlin Asks If Dictatorship Helps

Warns Democracy in Itself Can't 'Be Our Salvation'

DETROIT, Jan. 7 (UP).—The Rev. Charles E. Coughlin asked in his radio talk today if, under certain circumstances, "it is possibly true that the retention of democracy would have proved a greater menace than the adoption of a dictatorship."

He quoted portions of President Roosevelt's recent address before Congress and offered a conclusion "that the continued mismanagement of domestic affairs in the United States will produce results in our homeland similar to those which have appeared abroad."

Father Coughlin said that Mr. Roosevelt had pointed out that dictatorships originated principally from "the necessity for drastic action to improve internal conditions where democratic action for one reason or another has failed to respond to modern needs and modern demands."

He said the United States was neither a dictatorship nor a democracy "in the full sense of the word."

"If, as Mr. Roosevelt remarked," he continued "dictatorships have originated abroad in almost every case through the necessity for drastic action to improve internal conditions where democratic action failed—to solve the problems of unemployment, of agricultural production, of distribution—is it possibly true that the retention of democracy would have proved a greater menace than the adoption of dictatorship because both the people who were privileged to vote and the representatives whom they elected were no longer capable of achieving the objectives of peace, prosperity and national happiness?"

He urged preservation of "our constitutional form of government so that it will function for the common temporal and spiritual welfare of all," but warned against being "so childish as to accept the fallacy that democracy of itself will be our salvation."