

Harker
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A Coughlin Prosecution? Or More Stalling?

• It is rather weird the way the Coughlin menace is being handled by the Government authorities. In response to charges of the Jewish People's Committee, the assistant U. S. Attorney General, Mr. O. John Rogge, told the press that the complaints against Coughlin will be "investigated in due course."

Just what that means is anybody's guess. But considering the way Frank Murphy, just retired from the Department of Justice, coddled the radio bigot, and the way J. Edgar Hoover was at pains to leave Coughlin's name out of the Christian Front situation, the American people have good grounds for scepticism.

The fact is that Coughlin has powerful backers, that he nominated Martin Dies for President recently, and that his fascist incitements have gone unnoticed by the Government authorities. He seems to have immunity for his shrieks against democracy and for his incitements to civic disorder.

The safety of America requires a thorough exposure and halting of Coughlin's incitements. But to stop it effectively, the Government would have to go after the Big Business forces which profit from Coughlin's activities.

Can the people have any such assurance from the latest statement of the Assistant Attorney General promising something vague in the future? To prove its sincerity, the Government will have to do far more than issue such statements as the one made yesterday by Mr. Rogge.