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Justice Dep't Hedges on Quiz Of Coughlin

Acknowledges Receipt of Charges of Link to 'Front' Gang

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yesterday made public the specific accusations levelled against Coughlin. These are: "unlawful use of United States mails; the filing of false statements with the United States Post Office; and inciting to race hatred, anti-Semitism and racial bigotry in this country."

The charges were contained originally in a resolution which was adopted at the meetings addressed by Spivak.

The resolution stated that:

"This evidence makes Father Coughlin liable to Federal prosecution on at least three counts, it clearly devolves upon the Department of Justice to bring to court the said Father Coughlin so that the truth or falsity of the charges against him may be determined in a court of law."

The Jewish Committee, in line with its campaign to bring Coughlin to justice, is also conducting a mass drive against anti-Semitism and racial bigotry through a petition demanding Federal legislation making it unlawful to attack any group because of its race, color, national origin or religion. The text of the petition, in support of which the Committee intends to secure one million signatures, follows:

"We, the undersigned, mindful of the growing activity of the purveyors of bigotry, anti-Semitism and intolerance, who would destroy the civil liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, do hereby petition the President and Congress of the United States to provide adequate legal protection for the civil and religious liberties of all the people by making it a criminal offense to wilfully defame or slander any group of people because of race, color, national origin, or religion, or to disseminate, or circularize any matter wilfully calculated to incite or promote hatred, discrimination, or violence against any person or group of persons because of their particular race, color, national origin, or religion."

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Criminal charges made against Charles E. Coughlin by the Jewish People's Committee "are receiving the attention of the Department of Justice," according to a letter signed by Assistant Attorney O. John Rogge and made public by the Peoples Committee yesterday. Rogge said here yesterday "that Coughlin would be investigated in due course."

The charges were presented to the Department following a series of mass meetings at which John L. Spivak, noted reporter, presented evidence charging the radio priest with misuse of the mails and with inciting to racial hatred.

Bernard J. Harkavy, executive secretary of the Peoples Committee,

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