

# AIDES SILENT AS COUGHLIN STAYS OFF AIR

## Mystery Deepens as Reason Is Withheld

DETROIT, Feb. 5 (U.P.).—The reason for Father Charles E. Coughlin's dramatic disappearance from the air waves was the closely guarded secret of his associates today.

The Rev. Edward J. Hickey, chancellor of the Detroit archdiocese of the Roman Catholic Church, suggested that priests delegated by Archbishop Edward A. Mooney to pass on Coughlin's speeches before delivery, had found something they deemed to be "unsuitable."

### Drama Built Up

Hickey thus revealed that a procedure initiated by the late Bishop Michael J. Gallagher in 1936 still was in effect. Gallagher, then Coughlin's ecclesiastical superior, accepted Coughlin's suggestion that he submit his manuscripts to another priest for "tempering." Coughlin had termed President Roosevelt "the great liar and betrayer" in a speech in Cleveland.

Franklin Mitchell, Coughlin's announcer, began the hour by exhorting listeners to telephone their friends to tune in at once for "significant announcements."

Shortly afterwards, Mitchell announced:

"And now for the first significant announcement: I am instructed to say: 'Father Coughlin will not address you today. No person will address you today over this microphone. I am not authorized to give any explanation.'"

Then the music, and after some 20 minutes, Mitchell said:

"I am instructed to say, 'Pay no heed to idle rumors which will be circulated this week. Be assured Father Coughlin knows what he is doing. He knows why neither he nor any other person is speaking over this microphone today. Probably events transpiring this week will enlighten you.'"

At the end of the hour, he said: "Do not be alarmed. We confidently expect that Father Coughlin will return to the microphone next Sunday. By all means, do your share to have his largest audience ready to hear his message."

### Mystery Deepens

At the rectory of the Shrine of the Little Flower at Royal Oak, of which Coughlin is pastor, it was said that he was "out" and no one could say where he could be reached.

Coughlin had taken part in the controversy growing out of the arrest of 17 members of the Christian Front on charges of plotting to overthrow the Government by force.

Then, in his next Sunday radio talk, he said he took his place on the side of the defendants, that he doubted their guilt, but that they should be punished if guilty.

Last Monday the Jewish People's Committee of New York announced it had received a communication from the Department of Justice saying it was investigating Coughlin's activities. The department a few days later said the committee had been mistaken, that it had filed a complaint with the department and had received the routine, form-letter reply that the department was "investigating."

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