

## Coughlin Is Silent as Radio Waits; Clash With Church's Censor Seen

### Announcer Says Priest 'Knows Why,' but Chancellor of Diocese Hints Conflict Over Consent to Use Script

The Rev. Charles E. Coughlin of Royal Oak, Mich., radio speaker, was silent yesterday during the period when his usual Sunday afternoon broadcast is presented from his private studio atop the tower of the Shrine of the Little Flower on Woodward Drive in the Detroit suburb. At his behest an unidentified announcer told listeners on his network that "Father Coughlin knows what he is doing."

Cryptic announcements, interspersed with the religious music which customarily introduces and follows the priest's remarks, aroused widespread interest in the broadcast of an address that was not delivered.

The announcer hinted at an explanation that he carefully avoided giving, in declaring:

"He (Father Coughlin) knows why neither he nor any other person is speaking over this microphone today. Probably events transpiring this week will enlighten you."

Archbishop Edward Mooney, ordinary of the archdiocese, and Father Coughlin's superior, was away from his see city on vacation. The Rev. Dr. Edward J. Hickey, chancellor of the archdiocese, said last night over the telephone from his residence in the rectory of St. Aloysius Church, on Washington Boulevard, Detroit, that he had not been able to obtain first hand information on the situation.

"It is possible that the committee of ecclesiastical censors, appointed by Archbishop Mooney to read Father Coughlin's scripts in advance, may have raised an objection to a statement or statements in the script," Father Hickey said.

"The censors may have asked Father Coughlin to correct his statement, and he may have declined to do so, which would make it necessary for the committee to withhold permission for the use of the script."

Father Hickey declined to comment further until full information was available to him.

The Rt. Rev. Mgr. Michael J. Grupa, who is the censor librorum of the archdiocese, and as such, with the Rev. Professor Stanislaus Grabowski of the Seminary of Sts. Cyril and Methodius at Orchard Lake, Mich., the official ecclesiastical censor, did not know of Father Coughlin's silence until he was told about it.

Both Mgr. Grupa and Father Grabowski pointed out that they were charged only with the examination of books and that Father Coughlin's radio scripts were examined by a special committee, the identities of whose members Archbishop Mooney had not made public so that they would not be subject to public pressure in passing upon whether statements of judgment in the scripts were consistent with the doctrines commonly taught by the church.

Other officials of the archdiocese who were reached said, however, that they understood that Father Coughlin had refused to delete or correct a portion of the script to which the special committee of censors had raised objection. In the face of this refusal, the committee refused to grant him permission to broadcast, they said.

The permission, which Archbishop

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Mooney, once pointed out is given as a matter of course when judgments are consistent with Catholic teaching and do not endorse any facts which may be associated with them is given in the name of the archbishop, which alone, under canon law, has the right to declare a publication, "let it be published." (Imprimatur.)

Archbishop Mooney has stated that the church makes the same difference between "permission" and "approval" that the dictionary does.

### Pressure Scheme Suggested

Several officials looked upon the broadcast, with its announcements that Father Coughlin would not broadcast but was expected to resume his talks next Sunday, as an attempt to dramatize to his radio listeners his protest against the objection of the ecclesiastical censors.

They pointed out that the unidentified announcer, making appeals to the listeners to assure Father Coughlin his largest radio audience next Sunday, practically told the listeners to barrage the chancery office with letters and telegrams demanding that he be permitted to speak.

That Father Coughlin would go on the air with his regular program, but emphasize his own refusal to appear on it, came unexpectedly to officials of the Archdiocese.

The committee of censors made an attempt to bring the matter to Archbishop Mooney's attention, or to refer their decision to him, assuming, it was said, that some explanation in keeping with the dignity of the church would be made if a substitute script were not offered.

### Aide Here Unable to Explain

Meantime, Bernard T. D'Arcy, New York Representative of Father Coughlin's magazine, Social Justice, said that he could not explain the priest's failure to make his broadcast.

Likewise professedly mystified were other organizers of a rally, of which Mr. D'Arcy was chairman, to raise defense funds for the seventeen men arrested as Christian Front members on a charge of seditious conspiracy.

The rally, under the auspices of a "Parents' Defense Fund Committee" organized by relatives of the seventeen, was held at Prospect Hall, Prospect and Fifth Avenues, Brooklyn. More than 3,000 persons attended, each paying 25 cents admission.

The audience jammed the hall and as a fire precaution thirty patrolmen and twenty-five detectives were sent to the meeting from the Fifth Avenue police station.

Christian Front buttons and copies of Social Justice and of the Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter, the New American, official organ of the German-American Bund were sold to the audience.

Edmund D. Wilson and Leo ... lawyers for the seventeen ... were the principal speakers. They said that their clients ... the decent American boys

... live in their hearts" and pleaded that they receive a trial free of prejudice.

A mass for the intentions of their parents will be offered at 8 o'clock this morning at St. John's Roman Catholic Church, Twenty-fifth Street and Sixth Avenue, Brooklyn, it was announced.