

Mystery Surrounds Coughlin's Failure To Broadcast

Announcer Intimates Enlightenment From Events This Week

By the Associated Press.

DETROIT, Feb. 5.—The unexplained failure of the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin to deliver his usual Sunday broadcast provided a mystery today for church and radio officials as well as for his followers. Father Coughlin himself could not be reached for an explanation, and associates at his Shrine of the Little Flower in suburban Royal Oak said his whereabouts was unknown.

Three cryptic announcements, interspersed with organ music, occupied the hour usually devoted to Father Coughlin's Sunday address over his own network of stations. Early listeners were advised to "telephone some friend to join this audience."

Warns of Idle Rumors.

The announcer, stating he was unauthorized to give any explanation, first told hearers Father Coughlin would not speak. Later he returned to the microphone to say:

"Pay no heed to idle rumors which will be circulated this week. Be assured Father Coughlin knows what he is doing. * * * Probably events transpiring this week will enlighten you."

After another musical interlude, the announcer warned listeners not to be "alarmed." Urging them to "do your share to have his largest audience ready to hear his message," he said "we confidently expect that Father Coughlin will return to the microphone next Sunday."

The management of the network's outlet station (WJR—Detroit) said Father Coughlin had been expected to talk, and expressed surprise that he did not do so. The priest delivers his speeches from his church.

Chancellor Can't Explain.

The Rev. Edward J. Hickey, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Detroit, said he could offer no explanation. Archbishop Edward Mooney was out of the city.

Since the arrest of 17 members of the Christian Front in New York three weeks ago, charged with conspiring to overthrow the Government, Father Coughlin's name has often come into discussion. He has advocated "a Christian Front" to fight Communism and Naziism, but disclaimed any connection in the New York instance, though calling himself a "friend of the accused."

A week ago, O. John Rogge, Assistant Attorney General, said that "in due course" accusations made against Father Coughlin by the Jewish Peoples Committee would be investigated. Mr. Rogge has kept the charges secret.

Christian Front Rally Attended by 4,000

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (AP).—The Christian Front rallied in Brooklyn last night to the defense of 17 members in jail on charges of seditious conspiracy to overthrow the Government.

Federal Judge Grover M. Muncowitz adjourned until tomorrow afternoon hearings for the 17 members. The postponement indicated grand jury action was expected momentarily.

The defense rally overflowed Prospect Hall. Sponsored by the "Parents' Defense Fund Committee," it drew a turnout of more than 4,000, hundreds of whom were accommodated by opening seldom-used sections of the public auditorium and placing extra chairs.

Social Affairs Planned.

Leaders professed only puzzlement over the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin's whereabouts and his non-appearance on the radio at his customary broadcasting hour yesterday.

The chairman of the meeting was Bernard T. D'Arcy.

Hall Closely Guarded.

There was a 25-cent admission charge and the hall was closely guarded—outside by uniformed patrolmen and inside by several score plain clothes detectives.

Mr. D'Arcy said the only connection between the rally and the Christian Front was his assumption that a "large majority of the audience" belonged to the front.

Applications for membership in the Christian Front were passed among the audience and "Social Justice," the periodical founded by Father Coughlin, was sold in the hall.

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