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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 Nazism, 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.