

News - 5:30
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'Fr. Coughlin Knows Just What He Is Doing'

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

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

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



Father Coughlin

In place of Father Coughlin's regular talk yesterday, there was an hour of music.

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

Shortly afterwards, he 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.'"