

# 'Fr. Coughlin Knows Just What He Is Doing'

By United Press

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.



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

### NO EXPLANATION

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."

Then the music and after some 20 minutes, Mr. 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.'"

### RETURNS NEXT SUNDAY

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."

At the Shrine of the Little Flower at Royal Oak, of which Father Coughlin is pastor, it was said he was "out" and no one could say where he could be reached. His associates professed not to know where he was nor did they know, they said, the reason for his absence from the air waves.

Father 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. He had first disowned the front, said he had refused a financial contribution from it, then, in his next Sunday radio talk, had 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 Justice Department saying it was investigating Father Coughlin's activities. The department 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."

## Coughlin Off Air; Hints 'Events' to Come Will Explain

Detroit, Feb. 4 (U.P.)—The Rev. Charles E. Coughlin failed to make his regular broadcast today. The only explanation given by the announcer was that probably events transpiring this week will enlighten you.

The announcer said the priest would return to the air next Sunday.

"I am instructed to say," said the announcer, "pay no heed to idle rumors which will be circulated this week. Be assured that Father Coughlin knows . . . why neither he nor any other person is speaking over his microphone today. Probably events transpiring this week will enlighten you."

Another announcement warned "do not be alarmed. We expect Father Coughlin will return to the air next Sunday." The announcer asked for a large audience then.