

Boston vs. Curran *MM 3/24/42*

PATRIOTIC citizens of Boston are working for another Tea Party, to dump the Christian Front. Among the dumpers will be some of Boston's best Catholics and Irish-Americans—the same who joined in the tempest of protest against Edward Lodge Curran's appearance on a platform at the March 15 celebration of Evacuation Day, an anniversary date marking the evacuation of George III's troops from Boston. The tempest began some ten days beforehand when it was announced that Curran would speak. Bostonians knew only too well what that meant. They knew that "Father" Curran, like his commander, "Father" Coughlin, is a lurid anti-Semite, a Christian Front leader whose allies and followers are often not even Catholic in name, pretending to no creed except the paganism of Hitler. They knew that Curran would use the anniversary celebration to revile our British and Russian allies in translations from the German.

All of which happened—but not before the Christian Fronters who staged the meeting had had to use force to oust Miss Frances Sweeney, director of the Irish-American Defense Association, from the meeting hall. Miss Sweeney, through her organization, had protested that Curran and his Fronters were enemies of both America and Ireland. Similar protests had been made to the city administration by Joseph Salerno, state president of CIO, by the Neponset Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, local trade unions, and other organizations. Mayor Tobin was away on vacation and the City Council refused to take any action. So on the evening of March 15, representatives of the most overt, loud-mouthed fascist movement in America were permitted to preach hatred and disruption to the people of Boston. But the unholy performance marks no final triumph for the Christian Front. The men and women of Boston, good Irish Catholics among them, who rose in protest against Curran and his gangsters, are carrying on the battle.