

Coughlin's Hero: Do You Want Him in Charge of Our Ships?

Joseph P. Kennedy, whom certain circles are urging President Roosevelt to hurry up and appoint as director of America's war shipping, is a shining hero to the seditious Charles Coughlin.

"Man of the Week" is the title that Coughlin's Social Justice bestowed on appeaser Kennedy on Feb. 6, 1939, for his work against collective security to block Hitler.

A man who gets an okay from Coughlin can only get

thumbs down from the American people who are 100 per cent behind the President's war program.

Is this the type of person to be entrusted with America's ships just when the country is talking about the need for opening a Western Front with Britain and for increasing supplies to the embattled Soviet Union?

Kennedy is all right with Coughlin. That means he is NOT the man for a key war post.



JOSEPH KENNEDY AND FAMILY

As brought to our attention in last week's SOCIAL JUSTICE, Ambassador Kennedy is under fire from the newspaper "brigade," which has as a prelude to its counter-attack the diplomatic... So far is he from being the puppet of Barney Baruch in disrepute with his masses... that SOCIAL JUSTICE is impelled to remind the ambassador to the Court of St. James of the Man of the Week. With equal qualification might Mr. Kennedy be nomi- When Ambassador Kennedy sits in the councils of international statesmen, therefore, he represents not some Baruchian maneuver of international finance, but the homesick American like himself, the business of other successful men, and others and daughters like his own. From his publications while abroad, Mr. Kennedy has once more put this country's interest for George Washington's policy of no entangling foreign alliances. This powerful independent nation, he says, while lacking nothing in its sympathies for peace, will not obligate itself

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So far is he from being a puppet of Barney Beruch in dispute with his master, that SOCIAL JUSTICE is impelled to nominate him ambassador to the Court of St. James the Man of the Week.

With equal qualification might Mr. Kennedy be nominated for the "Typical American." Having by his business ability accumulated a personal fortune, the Ambassador's domestic life exemplifies the ideal of an American home.

When Ambassador Kennedy sits in the councils of international statesmen, therefore, he represents not some Baruchian maneuver of international finance, but the homes of other Americans like himself, the businesses of other successful men, and other sons and daughters like his own.

From his public utterances while abroad, Mr. Kennedy has put this country on record for George Washington's policy of establishing foreign alliances. This powerful independent nation, he says, while lacking nothing in its sympathy for peace, will not obligate itself IN ADVANCE OF EMERGENCIES by secret commitments.

Perhaps, that is one reason why it may have been decided that "Mr. Kennedy will not do."

THE MAN OF THE WEEK

Here is the way Coughlin devoted the entire back cover of the Feb. 6, 1939 issue of Social Justice to praise Joseph P. Kennedy.

Put-'em-in-Chains' Kennedy

How He Got His Name

Here is the way Congress devoted the entire back cover of the Feb. 6, 1939 issue of Social Justice to praise Joseph P. Kennedy.

Put-'em-in-Chains' Kennedy --How He Got His Name

By John Meldon

They called him Joseph P. (Put 'Em in Chains) Kennedy.

It was in 1937, just one year after the Atlantic coast seamen had gone through one of the most gruelling struggles in American labor history to establish a democratic union and abolish the Captain Bligh tradition of treating sailors as galley slaves that the incident occurred which led them to pin this nickname of contempt on Kennedy.

Kennedy was at that time chairman of the U. S. Maritime Commission.

He subsequently went to the Court of St. James as U. S. Ambassador.

He came back insinuating the possibilities of a "deal" with Hitler.

("We can do business with the Nazis.")

Now he is being touted by high-pressure appeasers for the post of "shipping czar," a job that will hold full control over our vast shipments of military supplies to our Allies and troops to the fighting fronts.

Kennedy earned his nickname of "Put 'Em in Chains" in 1937 by cabling an order to the captain of the American vessel Algic, then in Montevideo, Uruguay, to put the crew of that ship "in chains" if they did not call off a legitimate

(Continued from Page 1)

strike which they had called when at that port. The crew obeyed the threat of "chains" and returned, but when they got back to Baltimore, they were put in chains (still at Kennedy's orders), taken to jail and held for trial on a "mutiny" charge.

In November, 1937, when the trial came up, Kennedy stormed at the sailor's defense in court and declared "we must get a conviction."

SEAMEN JAILED

He got a conviction and the seamen went to jail.

Scores of ships' crews sent telegrams to the White House during the Algic trial terming Kennedy's actions "fascist-like." Kennedy's diplomatic record later bore out the seamen's healthy instinct in spotting a man with a "fascist-like" mentality.

Said the "Pilot," official organ of the National Maritime Union in its Nov. 18, 1937 issue, in referring to the Algic trial:

"The day investigation into the so-called mutiny started, the Maritime Commission (through its chairman Kennedy—J. M.) released an exclusive story to the Hearst press in Washington outlining a whole series of events with which they wanted to link up the charge of mutiny.

"They listed a waterfront brawl in which a seaman was killed in

Florida ten days before the ship arrived in Montevideo. They even listed an exchange of words between a steward and a passenger who had couched a little too strongly in the servility of American seamen.

"And then the Chairman of the Commission, Joseph P. Kennedy, proceeded to reveal the real reason for this series of mutiny charges and the drive against the union. He said that he was preparing to sponsor legislation for the Marine Industry similar to the Railway Labor Act now in effect for the railroad industry."

ANTI-LABOR RECORD

During the period of Kennedy's chairmanship of the U. S. Maritime Commission, except for the initial period of his tenure when he went through some empty gestures against shipping interests who were mislating the government of funds, his record was one of constant undercover attack upon the constitutional rights of the seamen and against their trade unions.

Kennedy's pro-fascist attitude toward the seamen was best summed up in a pamphlet published by the CIO Maritime Committee at Washington two years ago. Tracing the activities of the Commission, mostly during the period of Kennedy's chairmanship, the CIO committee charged that the committee tried to smash the seamen's collective bargaining rights, fought the union hiring hall,

"It inaugurated a legislative and publicity campaign to undermine America's respect for seamen and their unions, culminating in the famous Algic Mutiny prosecution and inflammatory hearings before the Senate Commerce Committee.

"It used legislation passed for marine disasters to lift seamen's certificates during labor disputes.

"It revived the old U.S. Shipping Commissioner's 'hiring hall' and announced its intention of hiring all seamen for its own vessels through that channel without regard for membership or non-membership in any union.

"It refused to oppose the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation in remitting or reducing thousands upon thousands of dollars in fines levied against operators for violations of safety-at-sea laws.

"It encouraged the operators, in contract negotiations with the NMU, to launch a new attack upon the hiring halls and attempted to write an open shop clause into the new agreements."

The seamen remember Joseph (Put 'Em in Chains) Kennedy for his past record and they detest his present-day record of appeasement, his intimacy with the late Neville Chamberlain, his friendship and negotiations with Franco's envoys, and his publicly stated belief, after he returned from London, that "we can do business with the Nazis."

The seamen and the people as a whole don't want any part of him