

Coughlin's Hand Seen In Queens' Warden Uprising *J. W. P. P. P.* Urged Follower To Join Air Wardens *315* SUPPORTS ACTION

The hand of Coughlin was seen as the inspiring factor in the recent 'uprising' of many Christian Front members, who followed his advice and joined the Air Wardens.

Walter Sandt and James J. McCourt persuaded 530 Queens air wardens to sign petitions to Congress. These petitions ran the gamut of grievances, from lack of sirens to the appointment of entertainers to OCD, blaming everything on Mayor LaGuardia, absolving the police, and calling for the War Department to replace the Mayor as City defense director. Some of their grievances were fancied; many were justified. More important than the mere words in the petition this incident illustrates the moral that anti-democrats are eager to hold positions of war importance and seize valid public issues to fortify their political position.

Questioned by police as to connections with the Christian Front and the Bund, Sandt and McCourt gave a demonstration of outraged innocence. Coordinating Committee records show, however, that McCourt, a Richmond Hill undertaker, was a financial contributor to the Christian Front in Queens. In 1939, when Richmond Hill became the center of noisy street demonstrations he advertised in the Christian Index, and became an ardent supporter of the Coughlinite street campaign. Sandt, indignant over the grilling, told reporters: "If any of us were Harry Bridges we'd be handled with kid gloves." This theme was echoed by Rep. Faddis, a bitter Roosevelt hater, who introduced a Congressional bill, February 23, incorporating the points of Sandt's position:

"The OCD should be staffed by veterans of former wars under Army direction, but they will not take orders from the screw-balls and nitwits they have there now. Nor could they have much faith in a director (Dean Landis) who whitewashed Harry Bridges."

Meanwhile Senators Tydings and Bennett Clark, who have been sniping at the war effort from the Senate, introduced similar bills turning OCD over to veterans under army control. Rep. William Barry of Queens, who has spoken on the same platform as Nazi spy Laura Ingalls last November at an America First rally, conferred with Sandt and McCourt and promised to introduce legislation, modeled on their petition.