

# U.S.A. Weighs Permanent Ban On Coughlin's 'Social Justice'

## Post Office Opens Hearings on Whether to Continue Order Excluding Publication From Mails as Seditious

PM's Bureau 5/4/42

WASHINGTON, May 4.—In the comparative privacy of Room 3235 of the Post Office Dept. Building, hearings are to open today to determine whether Charles E. Coughlin's *Social Justice* should be permanently barred from the mails as seditious.

The hearings, several times postponed, was ordered by Postmaster General Walker after PM had proved that *Social Justice* was following the Axis propaganda line, fomenting disunity and promoting anti-Semitism.

Only a handful of spectators will be able to attend the hearing. Room 3235 has accommodations for about 100, plus 25 reporters, but it is expected that the press delegation will be much larger than 25.

Whether Coughlin, who has admitted that he deceived his ecclesiastical superiors and continued direction of the magazine after being instructed to dissociate himself from it, will appear has not been announced.

### Coughlin Believed Worried

But some quarters expect him to seize the opportunity for a soapbox defense of his anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi attitude. His reasons would be twofold:

¶ To rant that the action against *Social Justice* is an infringement of the freedom of the press.

¶ To use the hearing to broadcast an anticipatory defense against the findings of the Federal Grand Jury which is now investigating *Social Justice*, its backers and its guiding genius, who, by his own admission, is Coughlin himself.

Coughlin could not be reached at his Royal Oak, Mich., headquarters last night and his associates said they had no idea where he was or when to expect him.

Observers here see evidence that Coughlin is seriously worried by the Grand Jury investigation in which all key employes of *Social Justice* and Coughlin's personal staff have been subpoenaed. The Grand Jury is continuing its parallel inquiry today. Coughlin may be called this week.

*Social Justice* already has been declared seditious by Attorney General Biddle, who ordered the Grand Jury to decide whether criminal action should be taken under the Espionage Act against Coughlin and the puppets who get out the magazine for him.

### PM Readers Protested

The Attorney General directed the Post Office Dept. to withdraw *Social Justice's* mailing privileges on Apr. 14 after getting 43,000 protests against the Coughlin sheet from PM readers. These readers were shocked into action by this paper's exposure of the danger Coughlin presented to the morale of our troops and war workers.

PM proved on Mar. 30 that Coughlin in *Social Justice*:

¶ Openly advocated the use of violence against the Government.

¶ Denounced and bitterly attacked democracy.

¶ Repeated and embellished the propaganda line preached by Goebbels and Hitler's other merchants of hate.

¶ Denounced the war and the war effort to our armed forces and to the men and women in the production line upon whom our existence depends.

PM further proved in that survey, which signaled an active Justice Dept. campaign against seditious publications, that the mis-

led readers of *Social Justice* were vociferously and belligerently repeating Coughlin's lies.

Biddle in his letter calling on the Post Office Dept. to ban *Social Justice* from the mails confirmed PM's findings. Biddle wrote:

"A study of the 10 major themes which have been broadcast by our enemies since Dec. 1, 1941, as reported by the Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service of the Federal Communications Commission, shows a close relation of material contained in *Social Justice* to those themes during approximately the same period . . .

"Some of the themes emphasized by both *Social Justice* and by enemy propaganda are: pride in the achievements of the Axis powers and sympathy with their aims; disparagement of the intentions and motives of Great Britain and the United States; blame for the war on international bankers and their control of or influence in the present national Administration and in the Governments of the Allies; creation of racial hatreds and distrust; constant and frequent attacks upon the war policies of the present Government, and doubt as to the ability of the United Nations to win the war."