

# Social Justice Quits; Sedition Probe to Go On

## No Defense Offered For Coughlin Weekly At Postal Hearing

By Dillard Stokes  
Post Staff Writer

The Social Justice sedition investigation will be pursued in the courts until the last guilty man has been dealt with.

The magazine—called “clearly seditious” by Attorney General Biddle—gave up its right to go through the mails without a fight yesterday and said publication was being suspended.

But high officials of the Department of Justice declared this apparent surrender would not retard the probe now being conducted by the special grand jury on Axis agents in Washington.

This inquiry was part of a Nationwide drive, ordered by Attorney General Biddle against the vermin press—which plays the Nazi propaganda game under the cloak of the bill of rights. Special Prosecutors William Power Maloney, Lieut. Edward J. Hickey, jr., U. S. N., and John T. M. Reddan will resume grilling Social Justice witnesses on Friday.

Postmaster General Walker's proceedings to clean the mails of treasonable matter, a Department of Justice spokesman pointed out, have no official connection with the enforcement of the laws against sedi-

The Attorney General, it was recalled, indicated his policy on law enforcement clearly when he referred the Social Justice code to the grand jury.

“We intend to present evidence of responsibility as to who published and wrote Social Justice,” he said, “and also evidence of any tie-up with the Axis.”

Social Justice was founded in 1936, by Charles E. Coughlin, a priest who turned from his clerical office and became a radio agitator during the depression. Coughlin's superiors in the Church several times formally disavowed any share in or approval of his agitation.

## Used Nazi Propaganda Line

Besides agitating radical financial measures, Coughlin used Social Justice to foment racial and religious prejudice to oppose aid to the nations fighting Hitler and—since the Pearl Harbor attack—to repeat the propaganda of Nazi radio stations.

Postmaster General Walker two weeks ago barred the magazine from the mails, pending the hearing yesterday before Assistant Postmasters General Ambrose O'Connell, Smith W. Purdum and Walter Myers.

There was no answer when the respondents were called, to show cause why Social Justice should not be barred from the mails for sedition.

Calvin W. Hassell, assistant solicitor of the department, then read a letter in which Coughlin's nominal editor-president said the magazine was folding up and abandoning its second-class mailing privilege.

Hassell read, too, a telegram from Coughlin saying this plan had his approval.

By this stratagem the agitator averted an official ruling by the Postoffice Department upon the question whether his magazine was seditious.