

Jury Calls Christian Fronter

Biddle Spikes Rumor of Plan To Let Coughlin Case Slide

By Dillard Stokes
Post Staff Writer

Attorney General Biddle yesterday spiked whispers that the Charles E. Coughlin sedition prosecution is going to languish and die as a result of the fold-up of the agitator's magazine, Social Justice.

Whether Coughlin or any one else will be indicted for sedition or any other crime, the Attorney General told The Post, will be determined exclusively by the grand jurors who hear the evidence in the case concerned.

Several indictments for sedition have been returned, and Mr. Biddle said more are probable, in the course of the Nation-wide investigation of the suspected treasonable and seditious operations.

The Attorney General several weeks ago began a chain of grand

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who bought a large consignment of propaganda books from Flanders Hall, Inc., the publishing house set up by the jailed German agent, George Sylvester Viereck.

Moran continued his agitation several weeks after Pearl Harbor, dwelling upon the theme that this is "a Roosevelt war," then changed pace and made an offer to sell defense bonds. A subpoena was issued for him last night.

If it should be found, Mr. Biddle said, that the special grand jury could not complete the Coughlin case another grand jury would be set up.

Coughlin, who is pastor of the Church of the Little Flower in Royal Oak, Mich., turned from his clerical pursuits during the depression and became a radio rabble

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jury investigations, in California, Tennessee, Illinois, Kansas, Indiana and in Washington. He has kept in touch with these inquiries, conferring nearly every day with Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, the chief of the criminal division whom he placed in command, and with prosecutors who have been handling the details before the grand jury.

Mr. Biddle said yesterday that it would be some weeks before the special grand jury on Axis agents, which began the Social Justice inquiry in Washington, would be ready to make a report.

The grand jurors have yet to hear a number of witnesses. Called before them tomorrow is Francis P. Moran, Boston Christian Fronter. See **AGENTS, Page 4, Column 6.**

rouser. His sanctimonious manner and glib tongue won him considerable following but the virulence of his tirades moved his superiors in his church to declare formally that he did not speak for that church in his agitation.

Entered Publishing in 1936

Coughlin went into the publishing business in 1936, setting up the weekly magazine, Social Justice, which was barred from the mails last month after the Attorney General declared it was "clearly seditious" and was making a deliberate attack upon the war effort.

Postmaster General Walker ordered a board to determine whether the magazine should be permanently barred from the mails. By the time this hearing was called, the special grand jury was deep in a probe of the financing and control of the Coughlin magazine, with a dozen employes summoned to Washington.

Coughlin, who had been issuing "challenges" to be called to Wash-

ington, averted a Postoffice Department ruling on the sedition question by abruptly subsiding, giving up his mailing privilege without a fight.

The Attorney General suggested yesterday that it was possible to view the Social Justice case as one resembling an antitrust matter.

Question of Public Policy

There have been occasions when the courts believed the public policy was served by entering consent decrees, without criminal prosecution, against industrialists who abandoned practices tending toward monopoly—as Coughlin has abandoned his seditious publication.

On the other hand, Mr. Biddle agreed, that it might be found that the public policy required that any persons guilty of sedition in wartime ought to be punished for it.

The Washington grand jury will resume its Social Justice investigation tomorrow, following a recess in which the special prosecutors—William Power Maloney, Lieut. Edward J. Hickey, jr., U. S. N., and John T. M. Reddan—have analyzed evidence previously brought out before the grand jury.

Those summoned for tomorrow, besides Moran, are Dr. Walton Cole, Boston, and Philip Johnson and Edward Kinsky of New York. The New York men were described as former employes of Social Justice.

Calling of these witnesses from the East suggested that the investigators are ready to move on from the operation in Royal Oak to its extensions in other cities.

Christians' Trial Continued

Chattanooga, Tenn., May 11 (P). Federal District Judge Leslie R. Darr today continued until June 1 the trial of George W. Christians, Chattanooga engineer, indicted on charges of sedition. The trial had been set for May 13. Christians is out of jail on \$8000 bond.