

## COUGHLINS PALS OPEN OFFICE IN NEW YORK

### Start Discussion Clubs

*James R. ... 7/20/42*  
Thomas J. Duffy, who prides himself as having served as an original incorporator for some of Coughlin's operations, and Scoville Hamlin, are promoting a new group, the Society for Constitutional Education.

Innocuous "patriotic" generalities, substituted for the former stronger fare of anti-Semitism and strongarm tactics, will not mislead those invited to join. The carefully worded prospectus will reassure the prospective members that they are still waging the same fight.

Duffy and Hamlin place every facility of the central office, Hotel Stratford, 11 East 32nd Street, at the service of the local groups, which are to form the mass foundation of the Society for Constitutional Education. Speakers will be sent from the central office to address the neighborhood groups. Detailed instructions, "How to Set Up a Neighborhood Discussion Club" are being circulated.

"Three or more neighbors are sufficient to start a neighborhood discussion club . . . Each discussion club will meet once a week at the home of the members in order of rotation. Each weekly meeting will be limited to one hour. The meeting will be followed by a social conducted by the hostess at whose home the meeting took place. The social of course is optional . . . A 'town club' will be organized in your community and comprise the neighborhood discussion clubs. The headquarters will be located in your vicinity and will be open every evening to all members as a center of information, organization and informal discussion . . . Dues will be five cents a week for each club member, payable to the treasurer of your neighborhood group. A tax of thirty-five cents a week will be levied on each neighborhood discussion club for the support of the town club headquarters. Club expenses for stationary and routine expenditures will be from the club treasury. No special taxes or levies beyond the above-mentioned five cents a week are to be paid."

Here the Tammany block plan is once again called into use. The prospectus is conceived to meet the needs of the smallest group, and yet to build the skein of little discussion clubs, with the ideas, program and slogans emanating from the original fountain-head, the founders, Duffy and Hamlin. The simple homely flavor of the entire enterprise is characterized in this passage: "Each discussion club will try to develop a speaker, although such ability will not be discovered in every case. The speaker should be a congenial person, man or woman, who will put a little humor into their talk."