

Gauleiter X and Gruppenfuehrer Schwartz

EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF

HON. MARY T. NORTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1942

ARTICLE FROM THE FLORIDA CATHOLIC

Mrs. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I include the following article from the Florida Catholic, the official newspaper of the Diocese of St. Augustine, Fla.:

[From the Florida Catholic, St. Augustine, Fla., of March 20, 1942]

That un-American paper, misnamed Social Justice, is again under attack for its disloyal attitude and activities. This is as it should be among people who abhor dishonesty and treachery. Since the infamous attack against us at Pearl Harbor, Social Justice has continued its pre-war policy of obstruction, confusion, and sabotage of our national war effort. In its campaign to weaken us from within, the Royal Oak magazine is following the latest methods evolved for use in the United States by the general staff of Axis propaganda. With unwearying repetition, it retails week by week the insinuations, the false interpretations, the perversions of truth, which issue from the studio of Dr. Goebbels. Its pages are filled with covert attacks upon the President and Commander in Chief, with tendentious articles about the Jews, with diatribes directed against our gallant companions in arms, with destructive and sneering criticism of our conduct of the war, with specious appeals for the strategy of shoreline defense. At the same time, this paper is pervaded with that sort of disproportioned condemnation of American manners and customs which characterizes the short wave English language broadcasts beamed at us from the enemy capitals. Save for names, dates, and local color, one has the strange impression of reading again the columns of the paid Nazi press in France during the period of the "phoney" war.

The past history of Social Justice has misled the few people in Florida who still read it into believing that it is a Catholic paper. The Florida Catholic, solicitous for the good name of the church and of Catholic journalism, considers that it is performing a valuable service at this time in correcting this false impression.

Social Justice is not a Catholic paper.

It does not reflect Catholic views. It does not acknowledge or obey any Catholic authority. Indeed, it has on several occasions made bitter attacks on those authorities. As far as the church is concerned, this paper is no more amenable to control than is, for example, the Chicago Tribune.

Principal among the reasons why Catholics are reproached with responsibility for this Axis-minded magazine is the fact that it proclaims on its front page that it was "founded in 1936 by Father Coughlin." And this in spite of the statement made by Father Coughlin himself and reported in the Detroit Times of July 11, 1941, to the effect that he "personally was no longer connected with the magazine." According to the publisher's declaration appearing on page 2 of Social Justice, the paper is now edited by a certain E. Perrin Schwartz. There are many who do not accept these statements at their face

value. Unfortunately, the record of Social Justice is not such as to warrant much confidence in any of its assertions. In the winter of 1937-38, for example, the paper passed ostensibly out of Father Coughlin's possession and launched a violent campaign against the Catholic Church authorities. Obviously, the change of ownership at that time was merely a subterfuge to escape from the control of the church. Whether or not we are now confronted with a similar subterfuge is a question which will have to await answer until our information is more complete. It is difficult in the extreme for straight-dealing men to follow the tortuous history of this disloyal sheet with its shifty editorial and contributing personnel. One thing, however, seems certain to practiced observers: Herr Schwartz is editor less in fact than in name. Behind him stands some evil and cunning force. If that force could be identified, we should be able to place our finger upon one of the ringleaders of Axis propaganda in the United States. Loyal Americans, Catholic and non-Catholic, would like very much to know who is the invisible gauleiter from whom Gruppenfuehrer Schwartz takes his orders.

Our primary purpose here is to expose the myth that Social Justice is a Catholic paper. It is not; it could not be; it is against almost everything the church stands for. Despite its mock concern for the welfare of our country, despite its peculiar brand of piety, this magazine is both unpatriotic and un-Christian. The priest at the altar no less than the soldier in the field is being stabbed in the back by Social Justice—with a blade fashioned by the pagans of Berlin.