

Justice Dept. Stalls 'Social Justice' Action

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAID:—

"Must I shoot a simple soldier boy who deserts, while I must not touch a hair of a wily agitator who induces him to desert? This is none the less injurious when effected by getting a father, or brother or friend into a public meeting, and there working upon his feelings till he is persuaded to write the soldier boy that he is fighting in a bad cause, for a wicked Administration of a contemptible Government, too weak to arrest and punish him if he shall desert. I think that, in such a case, to silence the agitator and save the boy is not only Constitutional, but withal great mercy."

By KENNETH G. CRAWFORD
PM's Bureau

PM WASHINGTON, Mar. 31.—Complaints against Charles E. Coughlin's *Social Justice* are being considered by the Justice Dept. along with demands for action against other journals alleged to be subversive.

Whether prosecution will be started under the sedition laws is still an open question. Wendell Berge, chief of the Criminal Division of the Department, will say only that all complaints are receiving attention. Attorney General Biddle is away on vacation.

The Justice Dept. will make no announcements unless it decides to act. It already has announced the arrest of George Christians of Chattanooga and Rudolph Fahl of Denver on charges of seditious conduct designed to "impair the morale of the military forces."

These two men, either personally or in printed literature, solicited members of the armed forces to throw down their arms and refuse to fight against the Axis. Justice Dept. officials are convinced that in doing this they violated the sedition laws.

Their trials will provide the first test of these laws since the outbreak of the second World War.

Questions of Policy

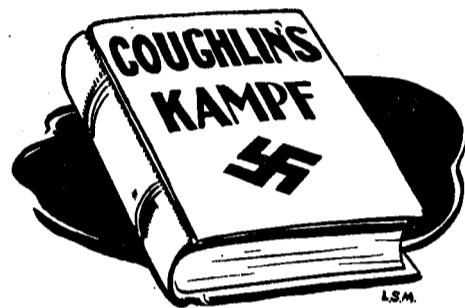
Three questions have been raised in the Department by a study of scores of antiwar publications:

¶ What the Government's basic policy should be in this war? Should antiwar publications be suppressed or permitted to operate undisturbed? If they are suppressed, what degree of war opposition should be tolerated?

¶ What can be done by way of suppression under the existing sedition laws? There are two on the statute books, one the 1917 Sedition Act, and another, which overlaps the first, called the Smith Act of 1940. Both are admittedly vague and subject to varying interpretations.

¶ Whether amendments extending the sedition laws and making them more specific should be requested of Congress. The law under which most World War I sedition trials were conducted is no longer on the statute books. It was so all-inclusive that it led to fantastic abuses.

Officials admit the broad question of policy is still unanswered. They recognize that there is an insistent public demand for prosecution of seditious editors and they themselves incline to the belief that, as a matter of public policy, some publications should be suppressed. But they have not decided just where the line should be drawn



between legitimate criticism of war conduct and sedition.

Shades of Difference

They recognize that the difference between *Social Justice* and several reputable newspapers of large influence is only a difference of degree. Fundamentally, the line of *Social Justice* and that of several general circulation dailies runs parallel.

Biddle has leaned over backward so far in his effort to preserve freedom of the press during wartime. However, in approving prosecution of Christians and Fahl, he indicated his attitude has changed somewhat.

Under existing law, there are four classes of sedition:

¶ Interference with recruiting and enlistment.

¶ Incitement to mutiny or disaffection in the armed forces.

¶ Incitement to revolution.

¶ Willful dissemination of false reports "with intent to interfere with the operation or success of the military or naval forces of the U. S. or to promote the success of its enemies."

This last appears to be the most serviceable. However, examination of false statements often shows that they are, in the eyes of U. S. courts, merely expressions of opinion. Furthermore, the courts have ruled that literature is not seditious, even if it finds its way into the hands of soldiers and sailors, unless its effect is to create a "clear and present danger" to the security of the Nation.

Out of its present uncertainty about policy and its concern with the legal complexities of sedition the Justice Dept. is expected soon to evolve a clear-cut procedural pattern. Meanwhile, it will take action in such open and shut cases as those against Christians and Fahl.

Women Aid War Effort

The USO announced today that it has 400,000 women workers serving America's armed forces. Its \$32,000,000 war fund campaign starts May 11.

First Comments On Coughlin Story

Telegrams and Phone Calls Uphold PM's Exposure of 'Social Justice'

Within a few hours after PM appeared on the newsstands yesterday, telephone calls and telegrams began to arrive approving our publication of facts proving that *Social Justice* is endangering our war effort.

A great many of the messages were from Catholics.

As this story is being written, it is too early to give a complete account of reactions, and the following represent only a sample of the early response.

Frances Sweeney, director of the Boston branch of the American Irish Defense Assn., wired:

"The AIDA applauds your condemnation of *Social Justice* and your forthright stand on the whole Coughlin problem."

Dr. William Agar, speaking for Freedom House, said:

"Your Coughlin issue is great. Nobody can possibly smear it as an attack upon the Church because you have accomplished a very great task in proving that *Social Justice* does not represent the Catholic attitude."

The Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League, through its chairman, Prof. James H. Sheldon, said in part:

"The editors of PM correctly judged the temper of the American people, when they printed Abraham Lincoln's picture on the front page beside the headline *PM Proves Coughlin Dangerous*.

"I am sure that if Lincoln were alive today, he would vote your ballot in the place marked *Do Something About It*—and I propose to do as I believe he would do. . . ."

"There is no reason that we should continue to let *Social Justice* pass through the mails, while we put Bundsters in jail. It is to be hoped that the Government will act promptly on the evidence which PM has so well assembled and presented."

Kingdom's Reaction

The Union for Democratic Action, Frank Kingdom, president, wired:

"UDA wholeheartedly indorses your demand for immediate and complete investigation of . . . Coughlin's *Social Justice*. . . . Democracy has not only the right but the obligation to defend itself."

Kenneth M. Birkhead, national director of Friends of Democracy, said in part:

"PM truthfully stated, 'No one can be neutral about *Social Justice*.' . . ."

"The last issue of *Social Justice* told its readers that unless the Jews ceased their injustices, the pogroms which crimsoned the soil of Europe would rank as poor second to what would occur on the streets of New York."

Can't Be Neutral

"As a Nation we cannot be neutral to this threat. As a people we must rise and be counted. We must not only take a minute to check our opinion in PM's page, we must spend every waking hour making sure that there will soon be no more need for PM to present such stories as Coughlin's."

Patrick Welsh, acting director of Federal Union, Inc., wired:

"You deserve the thanks of every loyal American for your exposé of the man Coughlin. In particular, millions of American Catholics, whose loyalty to American principles has been proved in every generation, will thank you."

Mrs. Rose Norwood, president of the

Take one minute of time to help fight your enemies:

Tear Out This Page and Mail It to the Attorney General

PM proved yesterday that *Social Justice* is carrying its seditious line into our war factories and Army camps. We proved, through a survey of five cities, that the readers of *Social Justice* absorb and echo its seditious line of anti-Semitism, defeatism and dissension.

Then, on an opinion page, we asked our readers to check or write their opinion as to what should

be done and mail it to the Attorney General, Washington, D. C.

Because of the great interest created by the story, we are reprinting the opinion page today.

No one can be neutral about *Social Justice*. It is menacing our national safety. That has been proved.

Tear out this page, check or write on it, and mail it to the Attorney General.

Do Something About It

I agree with PM that Charles Coughlin's *Social Justice* is a menace to our liberties. You should do something about it, Mr. Attorney General.

I do not think Charles Coughlin's seditious talk is funny. I remember how people laughed when Hitler talked that way in the beer halls. I do not think we can afford to overlook him. Our lives are at stake. Our sons and our brothers are dying in the field, fighting the forces he defends.

I realize what a serious step it will be—the suppression of a paper in America. I thought I would never live to see the day when I would advocate it, but I agree with Abraham Lincoln that the whole structure of society is more important than any one part, and that America could die of Coughlin-cancer if it were not cut out. Other countries have died because they were not willing to cut out Coughlin-cancers. So, facing the seriousness of the decision with my eyes open, I say, Mr. Attorney General, that you have no choice but to take the knife and cut out the cancer—that America may live.

Don't Do Anything About It

I do not agree with PM. Why shouldn't Charles Coughlin say what he pleases to the men who are going into our armies and working in our factories? Why shouldn't he tell them lies, preach sedition to them, encourage them to armed revolt against the Government? Mr. Attorney General, keep your hands off Charles Coughlin.

I think it is silly to kick up a fuss about Charles Coughlin. Who pays any attention to him—just a lot of crooks and thugs. No matter how many good Americans he turns against our Government, sometime, somewhere, sooner or later, the FBI will catch up with them. There's lots of time. We don't mind a 10-year war. And if in the mean time there is a revolution we will win it. Forget all about Charles Coughlin.

I have so little faith in the American people that I do not think the national morale could stand the suppression of its civil liberties entailed in cutting off *Social Justice*. Where would you draw the line? It is all too confusing and things are happening too fast. I am kind of scared. I would rather wait. We'll muddle through somehow. Don't do anything about Charles Coughlin and *Social Justice*—or anything else.

Write What You Will Here

Signature _____

Address _____

Women's Trade Union League of Boston, wired:

"Your Coughlin issue is an outstanding job on the home front. The WTUL of Boston congratulates you on your excellent factual report of this situation."

The Rev. William C. Kernan, Scarsdale Episcopal minister, wired:

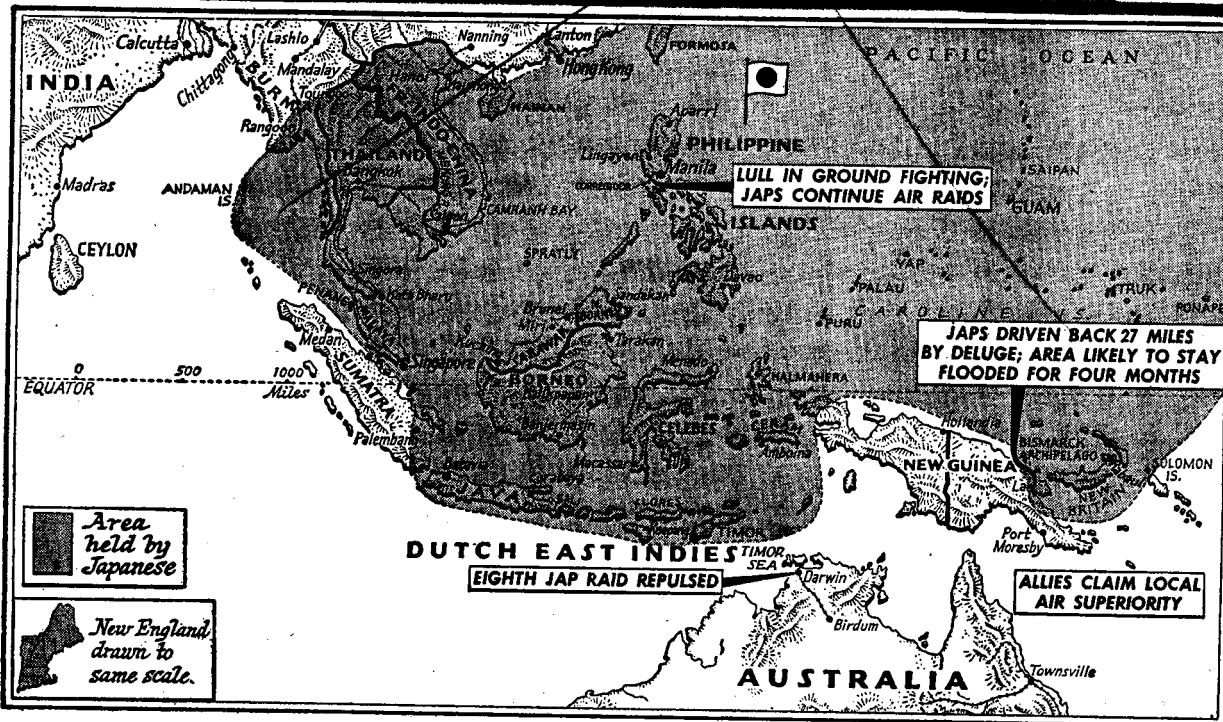
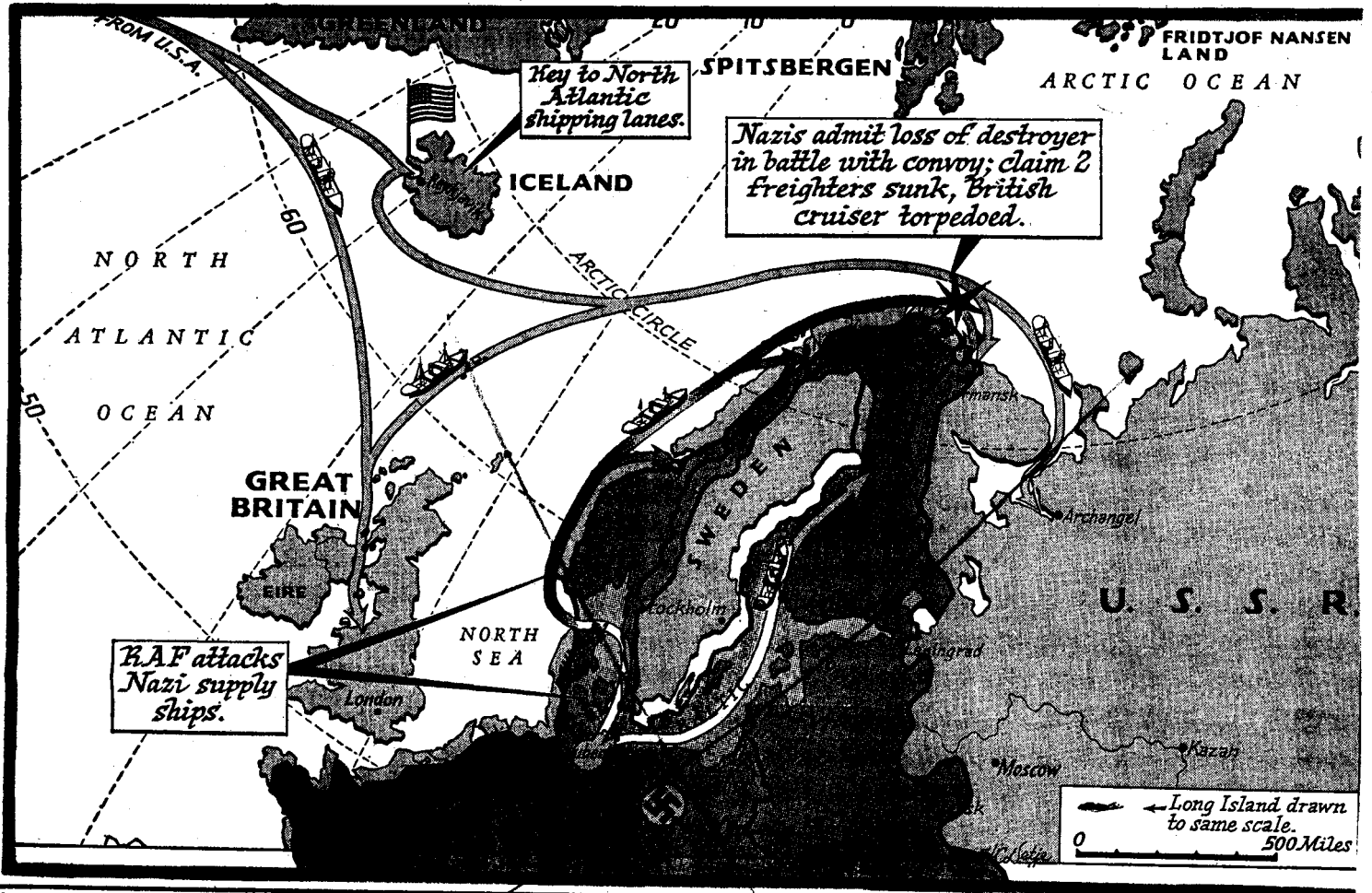
"Congratulations on today's issue of PM in exposing the Coughlin Front. It is courageous, accurate, and an inestimable service to the American people fighting for freedom and democracy."

Ray W. Guild, president, Boston branch, National Assn. for the Advancement of the Colored People, wired:

"Congratulations on your complete proof against Charles E. Coughlin who imperils democracy in our country."

One woman, who called the city room but asked that her name be withheld, said: "I'm a Catholic and I think you have done an excellent job and reached the nearest solution to the problem. I wish I could afford to distribute 1000 copies."

The Battle for Control of the Supply Lines Begi



Rockefellers Own Controlling Interest in Standard of N. J.

Report Shows They Have Power to Oust Officials Who Dealt With Nazis

By NATHAN ROBERTSON
PM's Bureau



WASHINGTON, Mar. 31.—The Rockefeller family was shown by the Temporary National Economic Committee (TNEC) to have an "effective working control" of the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey, whose relations with the Hitler chemical trust have been described by Sen. Harry S. Truman (D., Mo.) as "treasonable."

(This does not preclude other stockholders from taking action, however. "Effective working control" presupposes that few small holders will bother to attend meetings.)

The TNEC reported last year that the Rockefeller family had "direct and indirect holdings" of 20.2 per cent of the company's total stock, although it had "no visible direct representation in the management" of the \$2,000,000,000 concern.

"Members of the Rockefeller family owned 8.7 per cent" (of the company stock), the TNEC reported, "with a market value of \$105,000,000, and family foundations held an additional 4.8 per cent valued at \$58,000,000.

"The combined block aggregating 13.5 per cent of the common stock represented by far the largest holding and in view of the wide distribution of the majority of the stock should carry with it an amount of influence equivalent to working control. Furthermore, Standard Oil Co. (Indiana) owned 6.7 per cent of the Standard Oil Co. (New Jersey), bringing direct and indirect holdings of the Rockefeller family to 20.2 per cent."

Harkness Share

The next biggest block of Standard Oil of New Jersey stock is held, the report showed, by the Harkness family, having 4.3 per cent.

The Rockefeller family's interest in Standard Oil of New Jersey is bigger, the report showed, than its holdings in Standard Oil of Indiana. In 1929 it won a battle for control of Standard of Indiana with a block of 11.4 per cent of the stock.

The battle for control of Standard Oil of Indiana developed out of the Teapot Dome case.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., was shown by the TNEC to be the biggest single stockholder in Standard Oil of New Jersey, with 6.45 per cent. He also had provided trusts for four other members of the family, with 150,000 shares, or a little more than half of one per cent each. They were:

¶ Mrs. Abbe Rockefeller Miltom (his daughter).

¶ Mrs. Abbe Aldrich Rockefeller (his wife).

¶ John D. Rockefeller 3d (his son, now in the Army).

¶ Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller (his son, now Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs).

Officers of Standard Oil of New Jersey get a chance today to answer the "treason" charges before the Truman Investigating Committee. Called to the stand were W. S. Farish, president of the company, and Frank A. Howard, vice-president, who handled most of the negotiations with the German chemical trust.

The Committee was to get a chance today to question the company about its refusal

to turn over to the Government its prize patent for Butyl rubber which it developed in 1938 and turned over to Hitler at that time.

While the company has been denying the charges, evidence filed with the Committee by Thurman Arnold, Assistant Attorney General, indicates that it was working much more co-operatively with the Germans than with the U. S. Government.

To S. O. Stockholders:

This Is What You Can Do

The 136,355 stockholders who own the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey are pretty well hog-tied but there is action they can take beyond protesting against their company's conduct in giving its synthetic rubber secrets to Germany while denying them to the U. S. A.

The corporate statutes of New Jersey (under which Standard is incorporated) are tough on stockholders and gentle toward management. But New Jersey lawyers, familiar with their state's laws, have this advice to give the army of men and women who hold Jersey Standard shares:

¶ Don't return your proxies when Standard notifies you of its annual meeting at Flemington, N. J., set for the first week in June.

¶ Organize your own proxy committee, appoint a secretary, send the proxies to him and let him cast them to oust the present management.

¶ Remember that if enough of you get together you will have a chance to control the company.

Here are the New Jersey regulations governing removal of officers guilty of mismanagement, misfeasance, fraud or other such reprehensible conduct:

¶ It takes a two-thirds vote of each class of stockholders to vote any change in the corporation setup.

¶ The alternative is that the board of directors might pass a resolution to remove the officers or any officer and then put it to a vote of the stockholders.

A single stockholder might go into the Court of Equity and ask for relief from mismanagement, misfeasance or fraud, but the burden would rest upon him to prove it. Thereafter the court, if convenient, might order that the offenses cease.

New Jersey attorneys say that in flagrant cases the court might even move to "neutralize" the function of offending officers but they doubt that any New Jersey court would go so far as to order any officer removed on any ground short of criminal charges.

The attorneys admit that there is little chance of defeating the concentrated power within the company but they feel that action by stockholders would have a salutary effect upon any future deals Teagle, Farish & Co. might dream up.