

# Coughlin Defied and Deceived His Archbishop

## Detroit Archdiocese Releases Record of His Broken Promise to Disavow 'Social Justice'

Archbishop Edward Mooney of Detroit revealed yesterday that Charles E. Coughlin had deceived and defied him regarding the control of *Social Justice*.

The Chancery of the Detroit Archdiocese made its stand known a few hours after Coughlin had announced that he himself had the "sole responsibility and control over the policy-making and content" of *Social Justice*, banned from the mails last week as seditious.

The Chancery office quickly made public, for the first time, a letter written to Mooney on May 16, 1940, in which Coughlin disavowed all further responsibility for *Social Justice*.

In that letter, Coughlin promised his Archbishop:

"May it please your excellency:

"Due to reasons which, in my judgment, are substantial I will not be responsible for *Social Justice* magazine beyond the issue of the date of May 27, 1940.

"Already I have informed *Social Justice* Publishing Corp. of my decision through the medium of a copy of this letter."

A Chancery spokesman also reiterated a

recent statement by the Right Rev. Mgr. Edward J. Hickey, Chancellor, which read:

"No priest of the diocese has asked or received permission to contribute to *Social Justice* and no priest has been authorized to associate himself in any capacity with its publication or circulation—or to the knowledge of this office has actually done so."

In contrast to Coughlin's 1940 letter to his ecclesiastical superior was his announcement to the press yesterday. It read in full:

"According to press reports, Attorney General Biddle, in an investigation expected to take several months, will place before the Federal Grand Jury in the District of Columbia evidence the object of which will be indictments under what is known as the seditious law of all those responsible for the magazine *Social Justice*."

"It is not necessary for the Federal Grand Jury to take several months or even several days for determining 'all those responsible for *Social Justice*.'"

"Time and time again, I have said, and I here repeat, that I am neither the editor, publisher nor owner of *Social Justice*. However, I do here and now publicly state that I alone am responsible for, and do control, the magazine, its policy and contents.

"This sole responsibility and control over the policy-making and content of the magazine I have exercised personally and officially by my effective moral and spiritual influence and direction over the editor, publishers and owners of *Social Justice*."

"If *Social Justice*, as Attorney General Biddle is reported to have declared in his press conference, is 'clearly seditious,' the responsibility is mine alone.

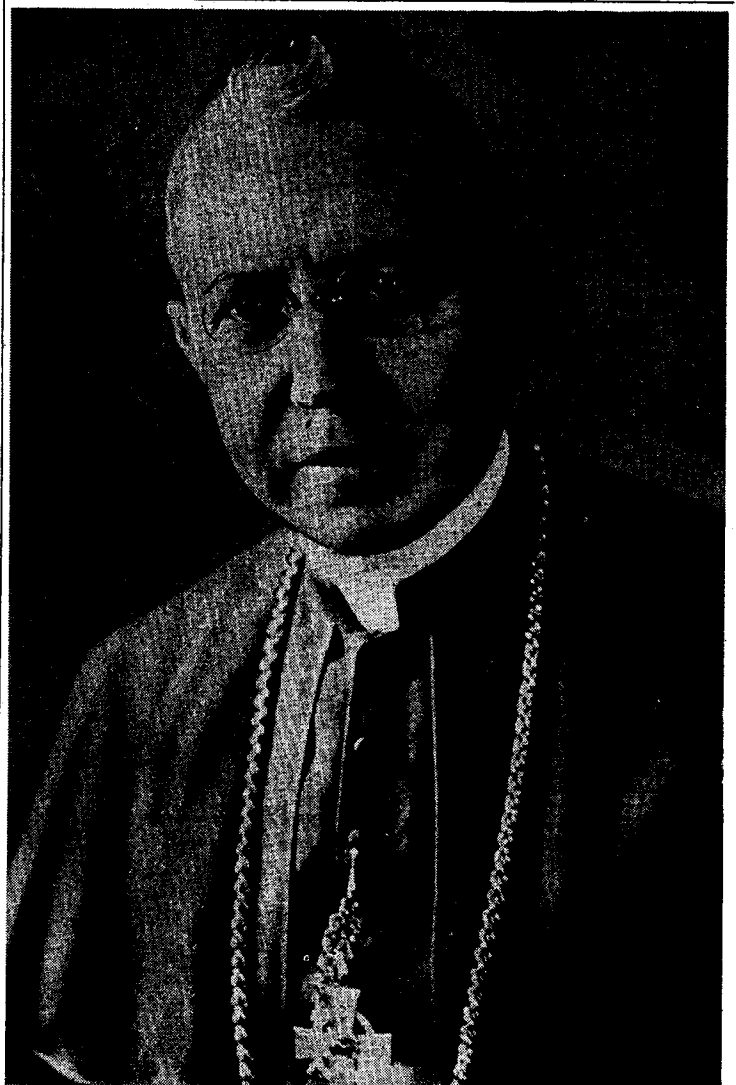
"This information which the Attorney General states he desired to obtain through an investigation expected to take several months, I submit voluntarily."

Released with Coughlin's statement was a page proof from the Apr. 27 issue of *Social Justice* announcing the intention of the magazine to continue publication.

Only last Wednesday, in an interview with the *Cleveland Press*, Coughlin maintained that an "order" from Archbishop Mooney prevented him from answering all questions—and that he was abiding by the "order."

"Until my boss tells me I can speak my lips are sealed," Coughlin said. "I may add I do not find the situation any more to my taste than you do."

¶ In New York, a group of citizens petitioned License Commissioner Moss and



Archbishop Edward Mooney, superior of Charles E. Coughlin, yesterday had his Chancery Office make public Coughlin's promise in May, 1940, to disassociate himself from all future issues of *Social Justice*.



Charles E. Coughlin

Park Commissioner Moses to order all newsstands under their control to discontinue the sale of *Social Justice*. They included: Joseph Goldstein, former Magistrate.

Dr. John J. Kelley, pastor of the Woodside Community Baptist Church. Dr. George H. Dowkontt, pastor of the South Brooklyn Baptist Church.

## Subpenas Issued in 'Social Justice' Case

By KENNETH G. CRAWFORD  
PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Apr. 21.—The Grand Jury investigating seditious publications has issued subpenas for E. Perrin Schwartz, editor of *Social Justice*, and Louis B. Ward, one-time Washington lobbyist for Charles E. Coughlin.

Both subpenas are returnable tomorrow. The Grand Jury is in recess today.

Later this week the Grand Jury is expected to question Coughlin's parents, nominal owners of *Social Justice*, and some time next week Coughlin himself. Coughlin said in Detroit yesterday that he was wholly responsible for the direction and editorial policies of the magazine.

Meanwhile, the Grand Jury, sitting here in Washington, was given an outline of the

seditious case against *Social Justice* by members of Attorney General Biddle's staff, and Postmaster General Walker issued an order barring the Apr. 20 issue of *Social Justice* from the mails.

This means that the magazine is not mailable either as first- or second-class matter. An order excluding *Social Justice* as second-class matter was issued last week and will remain in force until revoked. The first-class privilege, however, was not affected by this order. To bar a publication from first-class each new issue must be ruled unmailable after it has been inspected by the Post Office Dept.

Rep. Clare E. Hoffman (R., Mich.) told the House again yesterday that he was being persecuted by William Power Maloney, the Assistant Attorney General in

charge of the Grand Jury investigation, and demanded a House investigation to determine whether Maloney was trying to beat all Republican Congressmen running for reelection this year and whether a reporter for the *Washington Post* had been given access to the Grand Jury's proceedings.

The House made no move to adopt his suggestion.

Hoffman also demanded that President Roosevelt "get rid of" Lt. Comdr. Walt Winchell, who, he said, is spreading propaganda. Hoffman complained specifically about Winchell's statement in his Sunday night broadcast that Chairman Robert Reynolds of the Senate Military Affairs Committee had sent a letter of support to Gerald L. K. Smith, one of Coughlin's friends and collaborators.