

# 'FRONT' WHITEWASH SPURS 'TABLET' TO NEW ANTI-SEMITIC OFFENSIVE

## Letter to Attorney General Declares Attacks Against Jews Are 'No Offense'; Editorial Is Packed With Fascist Incitements

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By LAWRENCE EMERY

Generally recognized as the eastern spokesman for Father Coughlin, the Tablet, official organ of the Brooklyn Catholic Diocese, this week follows the radio priest's lead by using the acquittal of members of the Christian Front as a starting point for a renewed anti-Semitic offensive.

In its June 29 issue the Tablet publishes a letter it has addressed to Attorney General Jack-

son. Reeking with anti-Semitism, it charges that "some Jewish organizations had cooked up the entire case" against the Christian Front defendants and, with astonishing effrontery, demands that the Attorney General "investigate and unearth the real culprits."

### "NO OFFENSE"

Emboldened by the United States Attorney Harold M. Kennedy's praise of the Christian Front as based on "good, sound American principles," the Tablet's letter declares:

"All through the case there seemed to be an endeavor to prove anti-Semitism, as though this, even if true, was hardly an offense."

Here, in one bold statement, is the heart and core of the Hitler-like fifth column movement spawned by Father Coughlin, supported by the Tablet, and actively carried out by the Christian Front. Anti-Semitism, it says, is no offense. This is the banner of Goebbels and of the obscene "race theorists" of fascism. It is openly, defiantly paraded here—and in the name of Christianity and of the Church, which is blasphemy if ever there was.

The late Cardinal Mundelein, a true democrat, long ago disavowed such fascist ideology cloaking itself in the folds of the Catholic religion. On December 11, 1938, he declared in a public statement that Father Coughlin does not "represent the doctrine or sentiments of the Church."

### "GOOD FAMILIES"

Of the men who admitted on the witness stand that their aims were the "eradication of Jews" and "destruction of Communism," twin ideological concepts of fascism, the Tablet writes in its letter to the Attorney General: "Remember, only one of these men had ever been arrested before, and nearly all come from good families. . . . In fact, up to that very day (of the arrests) the public record of each one in an investigation would have stood exceptionally high."

The Tablet is moving up to cash in on an acquittal arrived at in an atmosphere of unusual friendliness between the prosecution and the defense. If Kennedy praised the Christian Front, then why isn't it logical that his chief, Jackson, will also be friendly to it?

But what Jackson needs is not insolent demands from an un-Christian, un-American fascist band, but a vigorous insistence from the American people that he look into the circumstances of this trial. The people must demand to know if Jackson concurs in Kennedy's whitewash of the Christian Front and its principles, and if not, what is he going to do about it?

In its latest issue the Tablet proudly reprints an editorial of January 22, a short time after the arrests of those who were tried. Its main interest then, as now, was to defend Father Coughlin. The editorial of that date charged that "Father Coughlin, the 'Christian Front,' 'anti-Semitic organizations' all come in for their share of sinister implications and suspicious innuendos. . . ."

"The obvious point of all the publicity in the case is to smear the Christian Front and to tie up Father Coughlin. . . ."

The defendants at that time were described as "seventeen seemingly poor unfortunate victims of their own excessive patriotism."

Inferentially admitting even then that the arrested terrorists had plotted to bomb the Daily Worker (as was later confessed in court) the Tablet justified their conspiracy by citing Martin Dies as a sort of patron saint of the accused. "If Martin Dies," it said, "writes about 'More Snakes Than I Can Kill,' it is no wonder that some few will get the patriotic 'D. T.'s'."

### NEW INCITEMENTS

The fascist-like anti-Semitism which is the trade mark of the Tablet is repeated again in the editorial of the latest issue. The jury's verdict of acquittal, it writes, represents a "complete rout of the Racists and the anti-Christians." This is pure fascist terminology.

The trial, the editorial continues, was "in reality a Racist, anti-Christian cabal to divide, disorganize and confuse rapidly crystallizing Christian American solidarity."

It was engineered by "the smear brigade who cry 'anti-Semitism.'"

In the personal column conducted by Patrick F. Scanlan this appears: "The justified indignation of the former defendants, their relatives and friends should not seek an outlet in any move of retaliation, even though anti-Christian papers, like 'Equality' and the Brooklyn 'Jewish Examiner' have practically asked for it." If this is not thinly

veiled incitement, then it is meaningless.

The Tablet also publishes prominently Father Coughlin's statement hailing the verdict of acquittal in which he openly threatened that the "resentment on the part of the victims is liable to increase the wave of anti-Semitism throughout the country."

Although the managing editor of the Tablet is Scanlan, its real mentor and the man who shapes its policies is Father Edward Lodge Curran, head of the International Catholic Truth Society and commonly known as Father Coughlin's eastern representative.

It was Father Curran whom Father Coughlin took to Detroit in July of 1939 to make a speech over Coughlin's own national radio hook-up, answering charges of anti-Semitism against Coughlin, Curran said at that time: "Father Coughlin is consumed with fighting Communism, with denouncing Jewish as well as non-Jewish Communists." This is likewise an exact statement of what consumes the Christian Front and the members of it who were acquitted with praise from a United States prosecutor.

### FOR THE "FRANCO WAY"

On October 25, 1939, Father Curran, Scanlan and John F. Cassidy, head of the Christian Front and one of those acquitted, were the joint sponsors of a birthday hall in honor of Father Coughlin. The affair netted \$2,087.55 which was sent to the radio priest.

On January 25, 1939, Cassidy and Curran spoke from the same platform at Prospect Hall, Brooklyn, both advocating "the Franco way" for America.

On January 6 this year, about a week before the arrest of the Christian Fronters, the Tablet published a long "Defense of Father Coughlin and His Followers"—meaning the Christian Front.

On January 13, just one day before the arrests, the Tablet published a very vigorous defense of the Christian Front which had been criticized by city officials because

of its street disorders incited by anti-Semitic tirades at open air meetings. In the six months preceding this defense, there had been 238 arrests of Christian Fronters on criminal charges, and 112 convictions.

The Tablet charged that Christians were being "persecuted" and declared that the city bothered only those meetings "at which our Jewish fellow citizens were adversely criticized. . . . If some speaker appeared to lean toward anti-Semitism, the Mayor had an immediate report."

In that same issue, the Tablet published several columns of space devoted to the conviction of two members of the Christian Front who had provoked near riots in the garment market with a truck bearing these anti-Semitic slogans: "Buy Christian for Christmas" and "Keep Christ In Christmas." The Tablet declared the conduct of the Fronters was "not reprehensible." The disorders, it said, were "due to the supersensitiveness and lack of will power of certain groups."

And on December 30, 1939, the Tablet published prominently an open letter addressed to Mayor LaGuardia and signed by John F. Cassidy as National Director of the Christian Front. The letter was a protest because the police department had thwarted a Christian Front plot to break up a mass meeting at Manhattan Center where John L. Spivak reported on his investigation of Father Coughlin's financial and political manipulations. Bitterly assailing police interference in his planned violence, Cassidy wrote that the Christian Front demanded respect for "the sacred vocation to which he (Father Coughlin) was called by God Almighty Himself."

The Christian Front, the Tablet, and Father Coughlin are inseparably linked in a common program of fascist incitement to pogroms.

Such are the "sound, American principles" praised by United States Attorney Harold M. Kennedy in a prosecution which was a mockery.