

# Coughlin Paper Boasts Being 'Front' Defendant

Was 'Absent Defendant' Along With 14 Linked to Bomb Plots and Terrorism

By LAWRENCE EMERY

Social Justice, personal organ of Father Charles E. Coughlin, this week confirms what has been known from the start: that Father Coughlin himself, though not present, was the principal defendant in the mock trial of fourteen members of the un-Christian Front. In its latest issue of July 8, the magazine gloatingly states: "Trial Is Vindication of Christian Fronters" and proceeds with this revealing declaration: "The jury's verdict not only vindicated the 14 young men

accused of crimes against their government, but it also cleared the Christian Front and vindicated the 'Absent Defendant'—Father Coughlin." (Our emphasis.)

And the threat of a renewed "wave of anti-Semitism," with which Father Coughlin himself greeted the jury's verdict of acquittal for nine of the defendants is given still greater weight: "Whether the Jews like it or not," says Social Justice, "they will bear more than their brunt of blame for some of their co-racials having used the majesty of government to wreak revenge upon a group of men who were intent on saving America from Communism, from Jewish domination and from semitic ideology."

## SIGNAL FOR POGROMS

In this manner Father Coughlin, who was long ago disavowed by Cardinal Mundelein as representing the Church or the Catholic religion, urges his followers on to fulfill their confessed program of widespread terror and violence in the form of bombings,

Let it not be forgotten that, under all the noisy trappings, these so-called "Christian" Fronters admitted on the witness stand that they acquired munitions from a government armory, that they manufactured bombs, that they even went so far as to draw a map of the Daily Worker office with the avowed intention of blowing it up, that they trained themselves in rifle practice, that they advocated "knocking off" Congressmen.

This is the program that Father Coughlin hails as "vindicated" by a court of the United States. And the "vindication" is credited in no small measure by Father Coughlin himself to U. S. Attorney Harold M. Kennedy, whom he praises for his "fair prosecution."

## OK OF ANTI-RED

Social Justice knows, why the nine defendants were acquitted. "The defense," it states, "contended that the young men were

merely preparing themselves to combat the expected Communist revolution. It was maintained that the accused met for the sole purpose of discussing the plans and objects of the Reds, and that they had organized rifle clubs only to be prepared for the defense of their country."

This was the "defense" whereby projected bombings and assassinations were condoned and justified, and it was a successful "defense," because the line of it coincides with strongly developed tendencies within monopoly circles and governmental agencies. Fascism always justifies every one of its violent steps forward by pointing to the mythical menace of imminent "revolution."

Social Justice this week applauds another member of the fascist fraternity which has long since justified violence against labor on the same grounds—the Chicago Tribune. Social Justice reprints in full the editorial of that paper which greeted the acquittal of the Brooklyn terrorists and denounced even the mock trial as "an instrument to terrorize Americans who have recognized the Communist menace in this country."

## CURRAN PRAISED

The magazine likewise has lavish praise for the Tablet, official organ of the Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn and which has long been a

mouthpiece for the Christian Front. Its editor, Patrick Scanlon, and its mentor, Father Edward Lodge Curran, are both close and intimate friends of John F. Cassidy, national director of the Front and one of those acquitted.

Father Curran himself, in the latest issue of the Tablet, publishes the full text of a letter he has sent to Attorney General Robert H. Jackson insolently demanding that the Department of Justice investigate "those individuals or groups who recently tricked the Federal Department of Justice into arresting and trying sixteen men, not one of whom has been proven guilty."

Such is the arrogance of these fascist proponents of Hitler's "racial theories" arrogance whipped to a frenzy by their "victory" in a Federal court.

An investigation by the Department of Justice into the circumstances of the Brooklyn trial is in order—an investigation to defend the interests of the people. Rev. L. M. Birkenhead of the Friends of Democracy, Inc., has charged that a Christian Front leader has boasted that the foreman of the jury is his first cousin and the Brooklyn Eagle has quoted one of the men still held on charges has as boasting that ten members of that jury intend to join the Christian Front.

SW  
7/7/40