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Fr. Brophy --- Purveyor of Nazi Race Theories Here

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By Lawrence Emery

When the Department of Justice last week made it clear in Washington that it will refuse to reopen the prosecution of Christian Front terrorists acquitted in a Brooklyn court, it was in fact condoning and encouraging a Fifth Column patterned after the treacherous bands who delivered the Spanish and French peoples into the hands of Franco and Hitler.

By its decision, the Department of Justice actually endorsed the declaration of U. S. Attorney Harold M. Kennedy, who was supposed to prosecute the case, that the Christian Front is founded on "good, sound American principles."

Apart from all the admissions and confessions of the fourteen defendants that they planned bombings and violence against "Jews" and an orgy of red-baiting terror, and had acquired munitions from a government armory to carry out their plots, the "theoretician" of the Christian Front himself openly boasts that the aims of the organization are in violation of the Constitution of the United States and its democratic institutions.

This "ideological" leader is Rev. Edward F. Brophy of Precious Blood Church, Long Island City, who has written the only "authoritative" pamphlet entitled "The Christian Front" and who inferentially takes credit for writing the preamble and objectives of the organization.

He openly declares that the Christian Front is "striving for a form of life not provided for in the scheme of national life."

THEORY OF FASCISM

And he openly threatens all other groups and organizations: "If they be in a minority in any country and attempt to intrude themselves on the majority, they show but little prudence and may be court- ing disaster."

This is the clear language of fascism, and contains its own thinly-veiled advocacy of violence—but to the Department of Justice it is "good, sound Americanism."

At a Christian Front "victory rally" held on July 3, Father Brophy, one of the principal speakers, rewrote the Declaration of Independence which has freedom of worship and separation of church and state as one of its cardinal principles. "The Declaration of Independence," he shouted, "was framed by Christians for a Christian people exclusively. The founders of our nation were all Christians and the pursuit of happiness was the pursuit of Christian happiness."

Father Brophy in his pamphlet proceeds to lay an "ideological" groundwork for this pure fascist notion of exclusiveness on racial lines.

Father Brophy's "theoretical" foundation of the Christian Front is identical with the "race theories" of Hitler and Goebbels. The only slight difference is the substitution of the word "Christian" for the word "Nordic" and this is a tactical difference, not a fundamental one. And it must be borne in mind that, when used by the Christian Front and its spokesmen, "Christian" has a political, racial connotation and has no reference whatever to the teachings of Christ.

Father Brophy boils his Hitlerite "theory" down to a nutshell. There is a "Christian culture" in the United States and many "alien" cultures. "If the divergence in cultures," he writes, "be serious, pronounced and frequently recurring, a rivalry may present itself, which may encourage one to dominate or to destroy the other, for its own respective preservation."

From this flows the fascist program of action: to develop and incite serious, pronounced and frequently recurring "divergences of

cultures"—and for the Christian Front this expresses itself in Jew-baiting, Red-baiting, incitement to violence, street riots, pogroms, bombings and general terror.

Developing his "racial" theory, lifted bodily from the doctrines of Hitlerism, Father Brophy describes the Jewish people as having a "characteristic mentality" and a "separate moral code." He writes: "Whatever ascendancy they may attain in the world of finance, the press, the radio, the stage, education or politics, they employ chiefly for their own separate interests."

THE COUGHLIN LINE

This is the disgusting, un-American, fascist anti-Semitism of Father Coughlin, of Henry Ford, and it is the "theoretical" justification of every sort of violence.

The late Cardinal Mundelein and innumerable prominent Catholic laymen have consistently protested the misuse of the Church for such un-Christian and un-American purposes as indulged in by Father Brophy. Cardinal Mundelein himself declared publicly that Father Coughlin in no way represented the Church in his political and public activities.

Father Brophy's pamphlet on the Christian Front contains the text of a letter which he wrote to Louis D. Gross, editor of the "Jewish Examiner," and which is one of the most foul samples of anti-Semitic literature ever published. It heaps insult after insult upon the Jewish people.

But in addition to its violent incitements, the letter contains the most glowing praise for Father Coughlin, for the anti-Semitic Brooklyn Tablet for Father Edward Lodge Curran, and for Martin Dies and his un-American committee, which is helpful because it once more proves the unanimity of purpose and the tie-up between these fascist forces in American life.

Of Social Justice, Father Brophy

says: "I assure you that I procure more enjoyment and learn more and feel much safer in leaning on the guidance of such periodicals as that well-known and highly valued national magazine, Social Justice, which is so ably edited at Royal Oak by the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin and his competent staff of superior writers."

Continuing, he states: "I also get much profit from reading that most excellent of Diocesan weeklies, the Tablet of Brooklyn. He praises the satisfying scope, the news-finding and news-reporting competence and the eminently skilled editorship of the Tablet."

He excoriates the Jewish Examiner for "besmirching the name of a great national character, such as Father Coughlin, and the ruthless discounting if his many years of marvelous achievement as a brilliant and estimable clergyman, a useful and valuable citizen and a strong and intelligent patriot. . . ."

DEFENDS CURRAN

Father Curran is defended from criticism by the Jewish Examiner: "The basis of the implied guilt of Father Curran is that he committed the heinous and unpardonable crime of having been associated with the Social Justice magazine."

Because the Jewish Examiner criticized Martin Dies, Father Brophy takes up his defense and speaks of "the lucid and pertinent program of action for patriotic Americans which Mr. Dies" stands for. Dies' Red-baiting aims are described as "these fine American principles."

And so the lot of them, Dies, Curran, Coughlin, all embraced by the Christian Front and standing on the same ground of anti-Semitic incitement.

Editor Gross himself gave adequate reply to Father Brophy's long and vicious tirade. "Your statement," he replied, "does not strike

me as sincere. . . . As an avowed Coughlinite, you and I are as far apart as the poles. . . ."

Such are the "good, sound American principles" praised by a United States attorney charged with the responsibility of prosecuting an organization which he himself admires.

Such are the "theoretical" principles which the Department of Justice condones by refusing to investigate the circumstances whereby confessed terrorists were acquitted in a Brooklyn court.

MORE THAN THEORY

And the conduct of the trial becomes even more questionable when it is remembered that Father Brophy himself has been quoted as boasting at a mass meeting that the foreman of the jury which acquitted the defendants, Mrs. Helen M. Titus, is his own first cousin!

Now, when anti-democratic, fascist violence increases throughout the land, when not only bomb plots are discovered, but bombs actually explode, killing law enforcement officers and endangering the lives of thousands of citizens, the Department of Justice makes it known that it is not interested in a fascist band of admitted terrorists.

Men who confessed to bomb plots are allowed to go free and the Department of Justice considers their case "closed." Such an attitude can only encourage bombers and create the hysterical atmosphere for widespread development of murderous frame-ups against labor and progressive persons and organizations.

The "fifth column" hunt is conducted against the real enemies of the "fifth column," while fifth columnists are turned loose.

To the Department of Justice the Christian Front case may be closed, but an aroused people can and must force it open.