

Urges Ban on Social Justice In Cleveland

OW 4/22/44
(Special to the Daily Worker)

CLEVELAND, April 21.—A strongly-worded resolution following up the Post Office ban against Charles E. Coughlin's Social Justice and designed to wipe it off the streets and news stands was introduced last night in City Council by Joseph F. Krizek, Councilman from Ward 30.

Involving a section of the Municipal Code prohibiting the sale of publications "calculated to excite scandal or having a tendency to create a breach of the people," the Krizek resolution stated that Coughlin's Nazi-inspired rag "has consistently preached defeatism, fomented social strife, belittled war efforts and expressed sympathy for the Axis powers and disparaged the war aims of the United States."

Mayor Frank J. Lausche added his own pronouncement with the statement, "I have a very pronounced feeling that the discussions of the war problems in Social Justice are subversive to the best interests of the United States. When I conclude that our government will be helped by a suppression of it, I shall not hesitate to take whatever course is needed. That the population of this industrial city containing a large Catholic following is demanding complete expungement of the weekly which undermines their war effort is further attested by a lead editorial in this afternoon's paper, the Cleveland News, under the heading, 'Showdown on Coughlinism.'"

"This magazine," the editorial concludes, "which Father Coughlin once pretended not to edit, but now claims, as his own, has made a mockery of our democratic freedoms. It is good that this voice of fascism for America wants to be a martyr. The showdown on whether American democracy can defend itself against attacks from within will be that much easier."