

Sedition Drive Bans Coughlin's Publication

A major offensive in the home front war against internal enemies was under way today as the Government revoked the mailing privileges of "Social Justice," the weekly founded by Father Charles E. Coughlin, Detroit radio priest.

The publication was denied use of the mails on the ground it had jeopardized the war effort by creating

the United Nations.

Specifically it was accused of violating the Espionage Act of 1917, and matter violating that act is "non-mailable."

Revocation of the mailing privileges was ordered by Postmaster General Walker after consultation with Atty.

Gen. Biddle. A representative of "Social Justice" was ordered to appear April 29 to show cause why the ban should not be made permanent.

The move was the latest in a series designed to stop seditious activity and sniping at war policies. The Justice Department has apprehended William

Dudley Pelley, leader of the "Silver Shirts;" George W. Christians, organizer of the "Crusader White Shirts;" Rudolph Fahl of Denver, and Los Angeles. All were accused of violating the Espionage Act except

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Christians and Fahl, who were arrested for failure to register as aliens.

Espionage Act violators are liable to a maximum penalty of a \$10,000 fine and 20 years.

The order against Social Justice indicated that the Government has departed from an earlier policy of leniency.

PARENTS OWN IT

Coughlin not mentioned by name and, in Detroit, denied that he was editor, owner or publisher of Social Justice, which Biddle said had a circulation of 200,000. Coughlin founded the paper in 1936 as the official publication of his political party—the National Union for Social Justice. His attorney said today that Coughlin's parents were the "sole stockholders."

Biddle told Walker that copies of "Social Justice" printed since Dec. 1 showed "a close relation" of material to "10 major themes which have been broadcast by our enemies," and that the publication had engaged in a "sustained and systematic attack on certain of our activities directly related to the war effort, as well as upon public morale generally." He said the publication's attitude since American entry into the war was but a "continuation and development" of that prior to Dec. 7.

In the issue of Dec. 25, 1938, Biddle said, there was a striking similarity to a speech of Sept. 13, 1935, by German Propaganda Minister Goebbels. Parts of Goebbels' speech, he said, were carried in "Social Justice" as an original article.

EVIDENCE OF INTENT

"What in a single instance might be excused as a careless over-statement may by constant repetition become evidence of a deliberate and intentional distortion of the truth—the more so when one considers the probable effect of such publication upon persons in the armed services of the United States and those not yet inducted but subject to induction and enlistment," he said.

Biddle's letter to Walker quoted several excerpts from past issues. Typical ones:

"March 23, 1942: 'How long will this war be pursued in America? Will Americans graciously bow down to all the totalitarian decrees which will restrict their sugar, their motor cars, their oil, their apparel, their way of life and their pocketbooks simply to satisfy the ambitions of those who translate victory by the complete overthrow of their enemies? Or will the American people want to listen to reason and terminate a war which no one can win completely, and which Americans can lose completely?'"

"Jan. 5, 1942: 'Hence, our foreign policy, devoid of all fine phrases, was one blueprinted to defend international capitalism and British imperialism no matter what the cost might be in tradition, in dollars and in blood to the citizens of our country.'

INSIDE JOB HINTED

"March 16, 1942: 'Our engaging ir war against Japan will initiate a long bitter, gruesome, destructive period which will witness abandoning of our Constitution, the destruction of private property and the adoption of a totalitarian form of government which will level off all families and persons.'

"Feb. 23, 1942: 'Was Pearl Harbor an accident? Was the scuttling of the Normandie an accident? Was the diabolical program of governmental muddling an accident? Or was all this planned that way? — planned from within; planned by men who prated of democracy while blueprinting chaos?'"

"Jan. 12, 1942: 'At the moment it is useless to remonstrate with public officials who played politics with commodities, supplies and preparedness to such an extent that a sinful shortage exists—a shortage of war materials which could have been averted. Perhaps the shortage was intentional to create an opportunity for confiscating the wealth of America.'

Coughlin Blames Jews, Communists, New Deal

DETROIT, April 15.—Father Coughlin today blamed "the Jews and Com-

munist and New Dealers" for the Government action in barring "Social Justice" from the mails.

Coughlin was editor until 1939 when he withdrew, coincidental with his withdrawal from the radio networks, and he has not contributed to the magazine for two years, but it follows the principles he enunciated in his radio talks and it reproduces his sermons. Each issue also carries his picture.

Authorities of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit have repeatedly stated that Social Justice is not, in any sense, a publication of the church.