

Quizzing of Coughlin Rests With Biddle

Grand Jury Questions 'Social Justice' Editor and Hoffman in Nazi Probe

Decision to summon Father Charles E. Coughlin, Detroit's radio priest and founder of the magazine Social Justice, now under investigation by the special District Grand Jury probing Axis propaganda, apparently rests with Attorney General Francis Biddle.

Department of Justice officials, who have announced that Father Coughlin would be called before the Grand Jury and then reversed themselves, last night indicated they still were undecided, after E. Perrin Schwartz, editor of the publication, spent most of the day testifying before the body.

Editor Testifies

Armed with a suitcase and a large box of records, from which he testified, Schwartz will return to the stand today to complete his story of the background and the policies of Social Justice, which has been barred from the mails by Postmaster General Frank Walker.

At his own request, Representative Clare E. Hoffman (R.), of Michigan, made his third appearance before the Grand Jury, which has been probing the distribution of Hoffman's much-discussed speech by various organizations.

Hoffman had certain records with him, which he indicated he presented, during a half-hour appearance.

Hoffman Before Jury

Hoffman, who demanded the summoning of Walter Winchell, Broadway columnist and a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve, twitted Lieut. Edward J. Hickey, U. S. N., a special assistant prosecutor, when he appeared in civilian clothes. After entering the service, Hickey was detailed to the Grand Jury because of his familiarity with the proceedings.

As they met in the corridor outside of the Grand Jury room, Hoffman placed a hand on Hickey's shoulder and asked:

"Where's your uniform, boy? Winchell wears his."

David Baxter, self-styled chancellor of the Social Republic Society of America, who was again placed under subpoena after telling newspapermen of an impending "revolt," made a brief appearance before the Grand Jury.

Selling Seditious Publications Means Prison, Biddle Warns

Says 'Social Justice' Is Only One Now So Branded But More Will Be Added

By GEORGE DIXON

Anyone, even a corner newsboy, who handles any publication that has had the label "seditious" slapped on it will face up to 10 years in prison, Attorney General Francis Biddle warned yesterday.

Biddle declared the Department of Justice is going to get rough, tough and nasty in the matter, with no holds barred. Offenders, he said, will be prosecuted under the Trading With the Enemy Act and will be liable—if convicted—to 10 years' imprisonment, or a fine of \$10,000, or both.

"More To Be Added"

The warning, currently, applies only to Social Justice, the thing formerly operated by Father Charles E. Coughlin. Biddle said Social Justice is the sole publication on his damned list at this writing, but that "more are to be added."

"We are investigating a number of other publications," a spokesman for the Department said. "There are quite a few new rags on the market which appear to be highly seditious. But we aren't going off half-cocked. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is giving them a thorough going-over."

"As soon as we have what we consider sufficient evidence they will be openly branded as seditious and barred from the mails. From then on, anyone having anything to do with their distribution, transportation, or sale, will find himself up against the Trading with the Enemy Act."

Even Railroads

The warning, Biddle's office said, applies to railroads, trucking companies, newspaper or other periodical distributors, and the individual news peddlers. If the violator is a corporation, any of its officers, directors or agents who knowingly participate in the violation are due to get it in the neck.

The Justice Department, said it had moved slowly in the matter to avoid any possible injustices.

The only publication other than Social Justice to get the ax as yet was one issue of William Dudley Pelley's Galilean. As soon as this issue was declared seditious, the publication folded.

Pelley himself, gray-goateed leader of the Silver Shirts, was grabbed for sedition out in Indianapolis on April 5 and heaved into the Marion county jail. He put up a terrific beef, saying countless other publications had been more outspoken and more critical of Government than the Galilean.

Schwartz Before Jury

Biddle's warning of dire things to come coincided with the appearance of E. Perrin Schwartz, front man and nominal editor of Social Justice, before the special Grand Jury investigating Axis propaganda. Schwartz, who turned out to be a husky, pipe-smoking fellow in his early 50s, arrived with a suitcase presumably containing his records.

He posed for the photographers, with pipe and without, but said he had no statement to give to the press. He was accompanied—as far as the Grand Jury room—by his wife, who told reporters she was a newspaper woman.

Another item on the subversive activity front was the action of the House Committee on Accounts in recommending that the Dies Committee be allotted \$110,000 to continue its labors for a fourth year.

The recommendation was carried, over the strenuous objection of Left Wingers. Representative John M. Coffee (D.), of Washington, charged that an investigation being conducted in Texas by Dies and his eagle-eyed sleuths is proving detrimental to counter espionage work.