

Bare Secret Pro-Fascist 'Poetry' Group in City

By Art Shields

Fascists maneuver behind a "poetry" screen at the home of Dr. Edward T. Curran, scalp medicine manufacturer and former attorney for the Paul Revere Sentinels, an anti-Semitic organization.

Yesterday Dr. Curran admitted in a conversation with this writer that he had held a private meeting at his home at 10 Park Ave. on Oct. 3, with a Mrs. Ida Cooper and a Mr. Thomas J. Duffy and several other "friends."

Mrs. Cooper was the eastern representative of Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling, anti-Semitic and red-baiter, who was recently indicted by a federal Grand Jury on charges of sedition and conspiracy.

Duffy was the Queens County distributor of Coughlin's "Social Justice," which the Government suppressed, and claims to be Coughlin's personal friend.

"POETRY" DISCUSSIONS

Asked bluntly why he was meeting with such people, Curran told us that:

"It was purely a social meeting. We met to plan a winter of social visitations."

"And much on the defensive, he continued:

"Our meetings will not be political. We won't exclude anyone with political ideas, of course. Maybe we will invite prominent speakers to discuss poetry."

Dr. Curran did not say whether there would be readings from author Horst Wessel.

Curran's secret meeting was exposed in the current issue of "The Hour," a confidential news service, which reported that:

PRO-FASCIST NUCLEUS

"Dr. Curran, Mr. Duffy and Mrs. Cooper form the nucleus of a group, which apparently desires to continue its 'isolationist' propaganda activities in wartime."

The meeting, said "The Hour,"

was part of a movement to "coordinate the activities of scattered Coughlinite groups and other pro-fascist elements in the New York area."

Significantly, Dr. Curran admitted to this writer, that the Oct. 3 meeting was only the start of a series of other meetings with the same people.

He admitted also under questioning that his office had handled some "collections" for the Paul Revere Sentinels, though he professed to know nothing about the political principles of this notorious anti-Semitic, pro-fascist organization.

COUGHLINITE AIDE

"The Hour," which is edited by Albert E. Kahn, co-author of an authoritative book on "Sabotage," a study of Hitler spies and saboteurs and fifth columnists, has investigated Curran's friends.

And it finds that:

"One of the purposes of the conference at Dr. Curran's home was to discuss ways of promoting an organization called the Society for Constitutional Education."

This organization, said The Hour, "is in many ways a 'respectable' duplicate of Joseph Kamp's Constitutional Educational League, which was named by the Department of Justice as one of several organizations used in a plot to sabotage morale in the U. S. armed forces."

Curran's friend Duffy, the "Social Justice" distributor, was one of the incorporators of this "Society," which now claims 1,800 members.

This potentially dangerous group has been holding meetings of small, select groups at the Stratford Hotel, 11 E. 32nd St., said "The Hour."

The meetings take place in Room 10Q3, occupied by Scoville Hamlin, one of the "Society's" incorporators, and at Room 103, which Thomas P. Smith, another incorporator uses, says "The Hour."

This movement, with which the Coughlinites and Mrs. Dilling's former eastern agent consult, will bear close watching.