

ENGLISH SECTION

Luigi Criscuolo, A Fascist in Citizen's Disguise

THE article in our last English section which told in damaging details the fabulous story of the criminal activities against this government of Mr. Generoso Pope, owner of the two New York Italian dailies, *Progresso Italo-Americano* and *Corriere d'America* in behalf of his Roman master Signor Benito Mussolini, has inadvertently served as curtain-raiser on the yet uncovered Fascist propaganda activities of "Count" Luigi Criscuolo, a New York investment banker, with a pretentious office at 50 Broadway.

In our previous article we quoted passages from the bi-monthly bulletin, *The Rubicon—Criscuolo Newsletter*, to show the Fascist links between "Count" Criscuolo and the Italian publisher, Mr. Generoso Pope: links which are part and parcel of a coordinated Fascist plot against our democracy. Strange as it may seem to our readers, Fascist propaganda goes on unmolested and very efficiently. We feel it our patriotic duty to quote from Criscuolo's scurrilous publication in order that our Government may guard against espionage, sabotage or other fifth column activities, which the Department of Justice has well prepared itself to handle.

"Count" Criscuolo, unable to serve us with a charge of libel, has preferred to send us the following letter whose style, more bombastic than grammatical, is characteristic of the writer and a fair example of the vitriol which "Count" Criscuolo has been pouring for the last twenty years upon Mussolini's most pugnacious and sworn enemies:

THE RUBICON

CRISCUOLO NEWSLETTER

AN AMERICAN CITIZEN SINCE 1894.

Feb. 2, 1942

Mr. Giuseppe Lupis, Publisher
IL MONDO

80 Fourth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I have read in your issue of January your leading article on Mr. Generoso Pope, in which you make some quotations from *The Rubicon* with the deliberate intent to place me in an unfavorable light with the Authorities at Washington. Anyone who reads the article referred to in its entirety will not misunderstand my position and will know that I am not engaging in any mud-slinging upon anybody, just to please *The New York Times*.

I do not believe the sort of tactics which your paper adopts can be calculated to arouse much sympathy for your branch of the anti-Fascist group. It makes me feel all the more that if the Italians will revolt against German occupation, they will never welcome any of your group to participate in the reorganization of Italy. I am confident that the authorities at Washington are quite aware of the fact that your group enjoys absolutely no prestige in Italy.

I had thought that you were a little different from the rest of the would-be Mazzinis and Garibaldis but it is now evident that you have the worst characteristics of the race to which you belong. With this I am sure that we understand each other. (Italics ours).

Yours truly,

(Signed) LUIGI CRISCUOLO, Editor

"Count" Criscuolo has for years spread the Fascist doctrine of the State with praise for the "blessings" of Fascism and the "achievements" of Italy under Mussolini among the American Cliveden set, in close collaboration with Captain Ugo V. D'Annunzio, former head of the Italian Library of Information, and Mr. Generoso Pope, whose newspapers were almost exclusively organs of propaganda. "Count" Criscuolo joined in the Fascist game of fomenting discontent and suspicion, race hatred and revolt against our democratic institutions.

The 1940-1941 *Who's Who In America*, tells us that "Count" Luigi Criscuolo was born on March 25, 1887 in the city of Salerno, Italy, the son of Antonio "of the ancient family of Patriciates of Amalfi and Naples." He was brought by his "baronial father" to the United States in 1889, ostensibly to try to make a living on the shores of this continent. Soon after World War I, "Count" Criscuolo emerged as a patented nobleman: *Grand Cross of Danilo I* of the former kingdom of Montenegro; *Grand Cross of the Montenegrin Red Cross*, and *dulcis in fundo*, *Knight of the Constantinian Order of St. George* of the dead and buried Neapolitan House of Bourbon. A real Italian would laugh at a knighthood from a dynasty dethroned by the great Garibaldi, but paranoid Criscuolo takes it seriously. Does he, as Fascist super-patriot, nourish hope that the Bourbons of Naples will be reinstated after Fascism?

We cannot write "Count" with a straight face, because we have been unable to find out the exact origin of the title. If he was honored by the exiled Montenegrin monarch the title of "Count" pitifully failed to make him a man. We may remember the saying that only a fool has need of a title to teach men to call him "Count" and to forget his proper name of fool.

We may also note that such Papal Counts and good Americans as Alfred E. Smith do not dream of parading their titles. No American citizen, native or naturalized, can bear a title granted by a foreign government.

THE "BLESSINGS" OF FASCISM

MR. Luigi Criscuolo is one of the "enemy citizens" who has deliberately and treacherously subordinated himself to orders from Il Duce, the man who after having told the Italians to die like lions rather than to live like sheep, has disgraced the Italian nation by delivering it to its secular enemy: Germany. Mussolini set Mr. Criscuolo, an example of treachery when he turned on his old comrades to establish Fascism, and he established the moral level of Fascist Italy when he brought about the assassination of his courageous opponent Giacomo Matteotti.

Unrolling the pages of history, we have discovered that Mr. Criscuolo delivered a lecture in January 1929 to the American Academy of Political Science in Philadelphia, in which he eulogized Il Duce, the man who blew out his cheeks and brandished his dagger for years, who practiced his ferocity upon the unarmed Ethiopians, and stabbed conquered France in the back.

Since the inception of the Fascist regime in Italy Mussolini has striven with might and main to keep confidence and good will abroad, especially among banking and commercial interests. Hence Mr. Criscuolo's servile services were

quickly enlisted. And it was Mr. Criscuolo who organized a system of skilful propaganda to convince outsiders of the legitimacy of the new Italy's colonial aspirations and of the "achievements" of Il Duce on the home front. In fact, the loquacious Mr. Criscuolo says that:

He was an open supporter of Mussolini from 1922 to 1926 (Italy's Grim Determination, a reply to propagandists who misrepresent Italy in America, by Luigi Criscuolo, New York, 1934).

The disagreement, in 1926, of Mr. Criscuolo with the local Fascist ringleaders, was in reality a fight for control of the Fascist League of North America, headed by Count Ignazio Thaon De Revel, whose intrigues had alienated many of its members. In fact, while in New York Mr. Criscuolo was fighting the Thaon De Revel machine, in Philadelphia before the American Academy of Political Science, in January 1929, extolled the "miracles" of Fascism. It has also been rumored by authoritative source that Mr. Criscuolo was a member in good standing of the George Washington branch of the disbanded Fascist League of North America, but we are in no position to confirm or to deny the charge.

Mr. Criscuolo had from the Fascist propaganda machine a specific assignment: to discredit, abuse, abase, ridicule and humiliate among the American upper-crust and Government circles, the outstanding leaders of the Fascist opposition. Count Carlo Sforza, former premier Francesco Saverio Nitti, Dr. Gaetano Salvemini, Prof. G. A. Borgese, Dr. Max Ascoli, Mayor F. H. La Guardia, have been during the last two decades the object of his mud-throwing slinging. We shall not lower ourselves to Criscuolo's level by speaking in their defense. We know by long experience that Mr. Criscuolo is happy to get into print even when he is held up to ridicule and scorn. But in pouring daily defamation against the opposition leaders Mr. Criscuolo has showed himself as a steadfast Fascist propagandist who has adhered literally to orders from Rome. His latest ravings against Mayor La Guardia and the anti-Fascist leaders prove that we are correct in our contention.

NO EMPTY CHARGES

LUIGI CRISCUOLO, would be master mind of Fascist propaganda among the upper-crust, attended on March 23, 1935 the official commemorative ceremony of the foundation of the Fascist party, at the Ambassador Hotel in New York. As usual, he was decked out in full dress and decorations of the exiled Montenegrin king and of the extinct House of Bourbons of Naples, which he tries to revitalize. The defunct *Grido della Stirpe* is the source of this information. The crowd was addressed by Agostino De Biasi, an "enemy alien" still at large and in the past a prominent Fascist; by Angelo Flavio Guidi, a traveling missionary of the Fascist party harbored in the staff of the daily, *Progresso Italo-Americano*; and by the Acting Consul General in New York, Pasquale Spinelli. The *Grido della Stirpe* thus commented on the "great" event:

The fatal dawn of March 23rd found the best and most articulate representatives of Italianism and Fascism of our community fraternizing together enthusiastically. At the same time that Il Duce, Benito Mussolini, was acclaimed by thousands at Rome, in New York City, at the Ambassador Hotel, took place a big ovation for our Duce (Italics his) which wound up with the battle cry, Eja, Eja, Eja, Alala!—for the King, for Fascist Italy and for Il Duce (*Grido della Stirpe*, March 30, 1935, front page).

Among those present at the rally there were the following high ranking Fascist satraps: Grand Cross Luigi Criscuolo; Chevalier Salvatore Bonanno, president of the Italian War Veterans Association; Chevalier Carlo Agro; Commander John M. Aufiero; Dr. Chevalier G. Arcieri; Captain Enrico Guarrata; Angelo Gloria and Edoardo Migliaccio, two actors of the Italian popular theatre of Fascist sympathies; Mrs. Giulia Morelli, Messrs. Peppino Milano and John Finizio of the editorial staff of the *Grido della Stirpe*; Chevalier Carlo Morelli; Chevalier Salvatore Pinò, of the editorial staff of the daily *Progresso Italo-Americano*; Captain Vincenzo Rossini, social editor of the New York Fascist daily, *Corriere d'America*; Chevalier Giuseppe Susca, president at that time of the Italian Barbers' Benevolent Society; Captain Vincenzo Vedovi, president of the Italian War Veterans Federation in the United States; Chevalier Giuseppe Sessa, manager of the Red Hook branch of the National City Bank; Dr. Bruno Rovere, director of the defunct Bank of Sicily Trust Co. and Giuseppe Santy, general-secretary of the Lictor Association in the United States, the organization which supplanted the disbanded Fascist League of North America.

What explanation has Mr. Criscuolo for his presence at the Fascist rally? Our charges are not flimsy or a pretext "to place him in an unfavourable light with the Authorities at Washington." We confine ourselves strictly to the bare facts.

The danger of creating unjust suspicion against the innocent is inseparable from the crusade against sabotage, espionage or other fifth column activities. Many Fascist agents are alien, but no less vicious and deadly are the fifth columnists clothed with "second papers." These agents cover the traces of alien agents and increase confusion for the benefit of the foreign principals. Without the Criscuolos, the Dr. Previtalis and the Popes, all full fledged "American citizens," the activities of the alien agents could be easily stopped.

HEADING FASCIST PROPAGANDA

THE first phase of Fascist propaganda in the United States was to convert as many as possible Italian-Americans to the cause of Fascism. Money was lavishly supplied. The rape of Ethiopia furnished the pretext. Let us again unfold the pages of the ultra-Fascist publication, *Grido della Stirpe*, to show Criscuolo's share in shaping the ideological propaganda through the press, the schools and the radio in behalf of Mussolini.

In preparation of the Ethiopian aggression, during the summer of 1935, Mr. Criscuolo organized a paper outfit, boasting 50,000 members,—a typical transmission belt, the so-called American League for Italy. The aim of this paper organization was to foster the cause of Il Duce in the United States. In fact, on August 28, 1935, Mr. Criscuolo signed the following telegram sent to President Roosevelt, and concocted by Captain Ugo V. D'Annunzio, chairman of the American Italian Union:

Representatives of 250,000 Americans of Italian origin met here tonight to discuss the situation arising from the Italo-Ethiopian conflict voiced their unanimous approval of the neutrality policy of the United States expressing the hope that nothing will be done by this government to disturb the traditional friendship between the United States and Italy.

This telegram was also signed by Count Eugenio Casagrande di Villaviera, general-secretary of the American Italian Union, and by "Count" Luigi Criscuolo, chairman,

American League for Italy; Chevalier Giuseppe Susca, president, Italian Barbers Benevolent Society; Dr. Giuseppe Previtali, president, Italian Historical Society; Captain Salvatore Bonanno, president of the New York branch Italian War Veterans Association; Captain Vincenzo Vedovi, president, Italian War Veterans Federation in the United States and by Dr. Genevie Camera, president of the Italo-American Professional Women's Association.

At the same time Captain D'Annunzio in the name of the 250,000 Americans of Italian origin cabled to Mussolini this second telegram pledging full support:

Chevalier Benito Mussolini
Rome, Italy

Representatives of 250,000 Americans of Italian stock, met in New York upon suggestion of the American Italian Union, reconfirm attachment Fatherland and wish to be considered mobilized for Italy's sacred aspirations. (*Grido della Stirpe*, Aug. 31, 1935).

Mr. Criscuolo on the other hand on July 17, 1935, in an interview to the *New York Times* stated:

The Italian people have willingly given Mussolini supreme power. No Italian leader has had the same hold on his people in spite of the criticism of his enemies—Italian leaders whom he replaced. (Italics ours).

Now only a Fascist agent can state that "the Italians have willingly given to Mussolini supreme power." Also in October of that same year Mr. Criscuolo issued another statement condoning Il Duce's stand in the Ethiopian question. He trailed along the Fascist propaganda machine very well.

We believe that this brief sketch is sufficient to show Mr. Criscuolo in the role of a potential Fascist agent. However, being clothed with the "second papers since 1894," he may invoke the statute of limitations. For unfortunately our legislation has enacted a time limitation within which certain criminal actions cannot be prosecuted. But we are ready to show in black and white that Mr. Criscuolo is still performing the role of a Fascist agent—the same role which he has performed uninterruptedly since 1922. And he shan't wriggle out of our grasp.

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR OF THE "IMPERO"

THE closer we look at Luigi Criscuolo, the hazier his figure grows. It may have been a mere accident that in 1935 Criscuolo attended the anniversary celebration of the Fascist party at the Ambassador Hotel, but it was certainly not accident that his name was listed among "honorary members" who sponsored the XV anniversary of the Fascist March on Rome which was held under the auspices of the New York branch of the *Associazione Italiani all'Estero* (Italian Clubs Abroad) at the Pennsylvania Hotel, on October 29, 1937, and also in connection with the 31 "Centri Educativi" (Educational Centers) which were branded by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as part and parcel of the transmission belt of the Fascist propaganda machine operating in America. (*The New York Times*, June 14, 1940).

According to the bi-monthly magazine, *Impero* (Empire), edited by Mr. Francesco Macaluso, an Italian lawyer and president of the *Associazione Italiani all'Estero*, "a regular party member, and a Italian subject" (*Impero*, Oct. 15, 1937, p. 21) the organization which he headed was composed of "old black shirts" and "contributed 70 legionaries who volunteered for service in Ethiopia" (*Impero*, Nov. 1st, 1937).

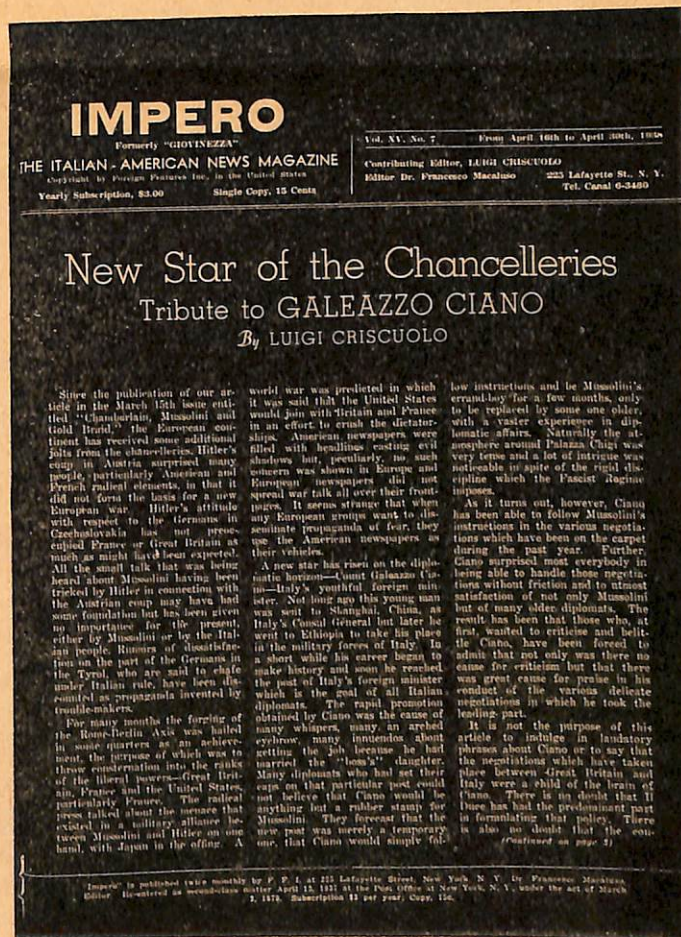
Of course Criscuolo was no Fascist, although there were Fascists all around him and with him; he was as pure as driven snow when on March 16, 1938, his name appeared as contributing editor of the Fascist publication *Impero*. How could he be called a Fascist when *Impero*, which incidentally was also the official mouthpiece of the *Associazione Italiani all'Estero*, listed him as a contributing editor?

Simultaneously, Criscuolo began a campaign to send a mission to Italy "to see how the Corporate State, Mussolini's greatest gift to civilization, was really working." A lengthy article, duly signed by Criscuolo, suggesting how "confidence might be restored in America by good government" ended thus:

"In Italy the cooperation . . . has been achieved under the aegis of the corporate state. Perhaps what President Roosevelt should do is to see if there is anything in the Mussolinian system that might be adapted to American needs. . . . Why doesn't Washington send a mission to Italy to see how the corporate state really works? (*Impero*, April 1, 1938).

There was no necessity form Criscuolo to head a mission to Italy to study the "miracles" performed by Mussolini's Corporate State. He might have read from such a conservative source as former President Hoover, who in his masterly book, *The Challenge To Liberty* (1935) writes:

"The political organization of Italy today is a complete dictatorship supported by one political party to the forcible exclusion of all others. . . . The present economic organization of Fascism is based on the corporate state. . . . All officers are selected from Fascists. . . . The plan is "co-operative" to the extent that coercion from the top produces "voluntary"



Fac-simile of the magazine IMPERO which bears (top right) Criscuolo's name as contributing editor.

action. . . . The free labor unions and fraternal associations have been suppressed, and the right to strike and to lockout has been replaced by compulsory determination by labor courts. . . . It is natural to conclude that Fascist experience has demonstrated what our deductions must be, that such an organization of society can only be administered by the extinction of the agencies of criticism and correction, and by the destruction of personal liberties through suppression and terrorization."

But let us quote from Criscuolo's elucubrations in *Impero*. Here is a puerile eulogy of Mussolini's son-in-law, Count Galeazzo Ciano, captioned, *New Star of the Chancelleries*, with the subtitle, *A tribute to Galeazzo Ciano*:

"A new star has risen on the diplomatic horizon—Count Galeazzo Ciano—Italy's youthful Foreign minister. . . . In a short while his career began to make history and soon he reached the post of Italy's Foreign Minister. It is not the purpose of this article to indulge in laudatory phrases about Ciano or to say that the negotiations which have taken place between Great Britain and Italy were a child of the brain of Ciano. There is no doubt that the consequences of the past year have made it possible for people to say that Mussolini has really become a man of destiny. European statesmen have gradually begun to accept the Mussolinian policy as to the Mediterranean, emphasizing the old saying that "All roads lead to Rome." . . . Here was a case where the world's greatest power, Britain, which through ex-Foreign Minister Eden had threatened Italy with extinction, by sanctions and otherwise, has now been forced to send her plenipotentiaries to Rome to confer with Count Ciano *in order to find out just what kind of an arrangement Italy would like to make with Great Britain*. . . . (*Impero*, April 16, 1938). (Italics ours).

In the same article American newspapers were depicted as "vehicles of propaganda for European groups" because they called Mussolini a warmonger instead of Criscuolo's "angel of peace":

"For many months the forging of the Rome-Berlin Axis was hailed in some quarters as an achievement, the purpose of which was to throw consternation into the ranks of the liberal powers—Great Britain, France and the United States. . . . The radical press talked about the menace that existed in a military alliance between Mussolini and Hitler on one hand, with Japan on the other. A world war was predicted in which it was said that the United States would join with Britain and France in an effort to crush the dictatorships. American newspapers were filled with headlines casting evil shadows. No such concern was shown in Europe and European newspapers did not spread war talk all over their front pages. It seems strange that when any European groups want to disseminate propaganda of fear, they use the American newspapers as their vehicles." (*Impero*, April 16, 1938).

Like all fifth columnists, Criscuolo fears any publicity which exposes the treasonable character of his seditious work.

A COLONIAL DON QUIXOTE

IN April 1940, a Committee of Seven for the Re-organization and Rehabilitation of the Grand Lodge Sons of Italy of New York State—branch of the national fraternal organization, *Ordine Figli d'Italia in America*, (Order Sons of Italy in America) recommended to the State convention held at Binghamton, N. Y. in September of the same year, changes and modifications to

"Strengthen the Order in its functions, re-establish its prestige in the community and permit it to make greater contributions to American civic, social and intellectual life."

The committee, headed by Edward Corsi, former Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization and Director of the New York Emergency Home Relief Bureau, included

Almerindo Portfolio, Treasurer of the City of New York; Serafino Romualdi, director of the Italian educational department of the powerful International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Lieutenant Governor Charles Poletti; Magistrate Francis X. Giaccone; Dr. Leonard Covello, Principal of the Benjamin Franklin High School; Dr. Paul Fusco, executive secretary to the NYC Board of Child Welfare and John Montana, a Buffalo civic leader and businessman. This committee, cognizant of the fact that there is today a large and growing body of Italian-Americans, rather than Italians in America, was of the opinion that the New York State Grand Lodge of the Order Sons of Italy can best be of use to this newer group by serving as a bridge toward fuller participation in American life. And since the inquiring committee discovered that the New York Grand Lodge consists largely of Americans of Italian descent, born in the United States, it suggested a change in the name of the organization to depict the origin of the Italian-Americans born on American soil. Among the names suggested were the "Columbian Order of America" and the "Columbian Alliance."

The report of the Committee of Seven was approved at the State convention without opposition, because the rank and file demanded an American Order, a democratic Order, an Order grounded not in the ideals of Fascism, but in the spirit of American democracy as well as in the spirit of service not only to its own members but to the community at large. Prior to the Binghamton State convention the New York Grand Lodge of the Sons of Italy lived a cloistered life of social and civic inactivity existing only to stress the "glories" of Fascism to which it pledged as far back as 1923 "material" as well "spiritual" assistance. Moreover, at the same State convention a resolution—was passed for the first time in twenty years—to *support and preserve our Democracy*. The resolution also condemned Fascism, Nazism and Communism as inimical to our form of government.

This resolution failed to please Criscuolo who, in collaboration with Mr. Gene Pope, launched a vicious campaign to frustrate the new re-organization plan, which proposed the destruction of the Fascist interests. To this end Criscuolo wrote several articles to foment disruption and dissent in the ranks of the Order. We find that the N. Y. daily *Progresso Italo-Americano* of Sept. 18, Oct. 6, 14, and Nov. 12, 1940 printed these articles and, strangely enough, supported them in a front page editorial by Mr. Pope, published on Sunday, Sept. 21, 1940, and in a second article by Dr. P. D. Badia, a Fascist satellite and an active member of a Fascist "Educational Center" in the Bronx.

Criscuolo slandered the members of the Committee of Seven because "it was inopportune to suggest a change of name." Incidentally, Criscuolo now suggests that it is "inopportune to hate Mussolini" (*Il Mondo*, Jan. 1942).

It is evident that this press campaign was inspired by the fact that the New York State Grand Lodge of the Sons of Italy had burned its bridges with Fascism. A change of name is still a necessity to attract into the orbit of the organization a greater number of skeptical Americans of Italian origin, to make it a real instrument of community service and to inculcate in them support of the fundamental ideals of the organization which are in support of the Constitution and the laws of the United States. It is evident to all that Messrs. Criscuolo, Pope and Badia were still supporters of Fascism, and were trying to hold out against the opposition of the newcomers in the Order.

Ever since the New York Grand Lodge of the Sons of Italy came out squarely for Democracy, Criscuolo has not lost a single chance to attack its leaders.

Here is a letter written by Mr. Edward Corsi to Mr. Gene Pope in response to the unjustified and vicious articles of Criscuolo in the *Progresso*. The *Progresso* did not choose to publish the complete text:

May 9, 1941

My dear Mr. Pope:

I hope you will extend to me the courtesy of a reply to the article on the Sons of Italy by your Luigi Criscuolo, appearing in Monday's issue of *Il Progresso*.

I must premise my remarks by saying that your willingness to publish Mr. Criscuolo's periodic attacks on the Order, its work and its leaders, bewilders me. We have had from your newspapers not a single word of praise or encouragement for the efforts of the fine men and women who are giving of their time, money and energy to make of the Order an instrument of service to the community. On the contrary, your dailies have ignored, editorially at least, what in essence is a genuine attempt to give life and vigor to this organization.

Does Mr. Criscuolo seek the destruction of the Order? This man who has contributed nothing to the movement but aspersions and denunciations, now speaks of politics, of men who seek to use the Order for their own ends, of cliques allegedly working in the dark and such other nonsense worthy of a colonial Don Quixote.

One would think that Italo-Americans these days would cooperate and build in a fair American way rather than condemn and destroy, but not so with Mr. Criscuolo. His is a destructive pen breeding discontent and suspicion to the detriment of the community itself. What politics and politicians has he in mind when he speaks of the Order generally and the Greater New York Lodge in particular? Does he mean Corsi, Savarese, Portfolio, Fama, Giaccone, Lappano, Faconti, Di Giovanna and others in public life who are doing what they can to help rather than hinder this movement? These men have not gone into the Order seeking political spoils. They were invited into the Order by the Order itself and they are not hiding under the table to avoid their social responsibilities. They are trying to help as all Italo-Americans should in the best way they can.

They have not played politics. They have not injected politics in their work for the Order. The only one who has done so is Mr. Criscuolo himself, who, at the last meeting of the Greater New York Lodge, delivered an unwarranted and uncalled for attack on Mayor LaGuardia which was resented by everyone present including those who do not agree with Mr. LaGuardia politically.

Some of us have leaned backward for fear that our presence in the Order might be interpreted as political. It was for this reason that I refused the honor to be Grand Venerable at the Binghamton Convention last summer. Would Mr. Criscuolo ask us to desert the ranks and leave to others the work that must be done by all of us as citizens of the community?

I am interested in an Order which serves its members socially and fraternally not in publicity, letters to the editor, or in spectacular demonstrations in coat tails and foreign decorations as Mr. Criscuolo might have in mind.

I hope *Il Progresso* realizes that the time for personal abuse and misleading criticism is gone. These are days for cooperation and self sacrifice, for the community is in deadly earnest about itself, its place in American life, and will not tolerate fifth column methods aimed at the destruction of the few remaining institutions working for the good of our immigrant masses.

I know, Mr. Pope, that you have the privilege to publish in your papers anything you please. But when one enjoys the monopoly of the press of a community, he at least must be fair. To allow Mr. Criscuolo or anyone else to go on saying anything he pleases regardless of the truth, without any check of the facts, is not only unfair but unethical and harmful. Why not give the Order an honest deal?

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) EDWARD CORSI

THE emotional sins of hatred are venial compared with the intellectual sins of high hypocrisy and deceit of Luigi Criscuolo. He is at the present carrying on an insidious exploitation of unrest and dissension. Dramatic enough, another sign of Criscuolo's stooge role is offered by the *Benito Mussolini Society* of New York. This Fascist organization tendered on April 6, 1940 a ball for the benefit of the *Balilla Welfare Society* of Italy. On the "honorary committee" which sponsored the ball we find "Count" Luigi Criscuolo shoulder by shoulder with *Domenico Trombetta*, *Renzo Abbondandolo*, president of the disbanded *Morgantini Club*, and *Italo Verrando*, former general manager of the *Italian Line* (*Progresso Italo-Americano*, March 4, 1940).

Now the public should be protected against such sort of political swindler. Criscuolo's hypocrisy is an insult to the intelligence.

One of Criscuolo's present Fascist activity is a bi-monthly bulletin, *The Rubicon-Criscuolo Newsletter*, through which he tries to reach the upper brackets of American business, finance and politics. This publication strives to build up the morale of those of Italian extraction who are reliable Fascists, to insist upon full cooperation from local Duces, to serve as a wholesaler of propaganda, to foment dissension ad race hatred and to damm such anti-Fascist leaders as Count Carlo Sforza, Dr. Gaetano Salvemini, Mayor F. H. La Guardia, Justice Ferdinand Pecora, Luigi Antonini and Prof. Max Ascoli. Criscuolo refers to those persons as "renegades"—a word widely employed by the Fascist propaganda machine.

The Rubicon—is openly pro-Fascist, intensely anti-British and its dream is to save Fascism in Italy. It utters the Fascist formula in Bankers' Club style with an occasional wink of anti-Nazism to forestall criticism and to shadow the suspicious role sustained. This is part of the new technique of Fascist propaganda. Let us look the files of this scandal sheet to show Criscuolo hammering every two weeks on the subject that "Fascism shall not perish from Italy." Under the caption, *Cycle of Power for the United States*, Criscuolo concludes just as Mussolini would like to do if he could:

"We hope that Mussolini and the principal Fascist leaders of Italy will respond to the ideals of the Italian people, of Mazzini, Garibaldi and the House of Savoy and will repudiate the German alliance after proper guarantees are given the Italian people by the United States and our Allies. Then Italy will again be the Italy of the Risorgimento which our fathers and not the Sforzas brought about from 1799 to 1870 (*The Rubicon—Criscuolo Newsletter*, Jan. 31, 1942) (Italics his).

Another bi-monthly essay in *The Rubicon* worth noticing is directed against *The New York Times* accused of being "a rabid sheet about Mussolini." Criscuolo has the supreme effrontery to urge upon Italo-American readers to boycott this daily. Writing under the head, *Boycott The New York Times*, he says:

"We should think *The New York Times* has ceased to print all the news that's fit to print and should have as its motto: 'Excludes much news that's fit to print.' And we say that any American who wants to read uncolored news these days should certainly not expect to find it in *The Times*. That sheet was so rabid about Mussolini that it has allowed its hate to extend to Americans of Italian origin, who are not responsible for what transpired in Italy. We urge the Italian friends, and decent Americans, to boycott *The Times*, not to read it, not

to advertise in it, to urge their friends to do likewise. There are plenty of other newspapers that are more 'American' with no foreign ties." (*The Rubicon*, Jan. 31, 1942) (Italics ours).

The repeated attacks against *The New York Times* are calculated to stir up hate against the Jews. We believe that silence on this matter will serve only those who wish to deliver this country to Hitler and Mussolini. Experience teaches us that anti-Semitism has been in Europe a lightning rod for the dissatisfaction of a widespread mass of people. It is now an undisputed fact that we observe in Criscuolo a good dose of virulent anti-Semitism. For anti-Semitism has never been a uniform, unchanging movement. It is complex and variable, and today especially is adapted to the peculiar conditions of the existing emergency. A second example will suffice our contention. Under the head, *A note for Secretary of State Hull*, Criscuolo says:

"If there is to be a change in Italy, with or without Mussolini, American friends of liberal Italy can be assured the people who will stage the revolution are in Italy, are good Italians, loyal to the people of Italy as embodied in their King. If the United States government wants to find a way to wean Italy from Germany, if could not choose a worse way than to encourage people like Sforza, Ascoli, Antonini and other subversive, who in past years could not have even brushed against a Sforza, even one of the cadet line with no important titles. So we are surprised that such a man as Assistant Secretary Adolph Bearle is understood to be sympathetic to this group merely because it has friends in the Treasury Department, beginning with Henry Morgenthau, just because people like Ascoli happen to be in the same group." (*The Rubicon—Criscuolo Newsletter*, Feb. 15, 1942).

Of course the Secretary of State does not listen to the "sound advice" of Bourbon Criscuolo. But the real aim of Criscuolo's tirade against Prof. Ascoli is to divide the mass of Italian-Americans, to divert the wrath of the discontented from Fascist evils, to blur the nature of the present war, and mobilize the six million Americans of Italian descent in support of the program of Italian reactionaries. In this connection there is another illuminating article by Criscuolo which was printed in the second section of the daily *Progresso Italo-Americano* of Dec. 15, 1940, protesting the internment of Mgr. Luigi Barlassina, Patriarch of Jerusalem. The article, in a form of letter, contains the following remark:

"... If a grand rabbi of the Jewish religion were to meet with similar treatment by the Germans, the Italians or the British, the American authorities would be flooded with letters and telegrams from all Jewish sources here..."

Mr. Criscuolo supports Mussolini, and condones his system, no matter what deceptive new forms it assumes. The deportation of the Italian and German consular employees who sought American citizenship in order to stay here and help the fifth column clothed with the "second papers" was condemned by Criscuolo "in the face of the admission of so many refugees" (*The New York Times*, July 5, 1941, p. 10). Moreover he has defended the Fascist activities of the Italian consuls here, and at the same time has bitterly denounced Dr. Max Ascoli and Count Carlo Sforza, whom he brands with the Fascist appellation of "renegades," because of their stand against his Roman master, "Finito" Mussolini. (*New York Herald-Tribune*, June 23, 1941, p. 9).

A FLOOD OF LIES AGAINST MAYOR LA GUARDIA

LET us dig again into his past Fascist activities. It was in 1938 that Criscuolo denounced the late Justice Salvatore Cotillo for protesting to Mussolini against the

anti-Semitic laws and openly supported the Fascist social and foreign policies. As late as June 1940, Criscuolo thus expressed himself in a letter to *The New York Times*:

"There is no doubt that Mussolini has weighed every consideration mentioned by *The Times*. . . . However Mussolini cannot forget that the incompatibility between Fascism and the Democracies was really caused by the fact that from the first, the Democracies fought the Fascist theory of government, even before Fascism became the slightest menace to the Democracies." (*The New York Times*, June 7, 1940).

This letter was in comment to an editorial of *The New York Times* of May 31, 1940, which set forth the reasons why Mussolini should not have cast Italy's lot on the side of Nazi Germany. As it has been observed elsewhere in this article Criscuolo would like "Mussolini and the principal Fascist leaders to respond to the ideals of Mazzini, Garibaldi and the House of Savoy and repudiate the German alliance." He forgets, however, that Mussolini is a vassal of Herr Hitler!

Unfortunately Fascist propaganda all over the nation has succeeded in depicting the great bulk of Italian-Americans as fervent admirers of Il Duce. Most Italian-Americans have never adopted the nefarious views disseminated by the kept local press and by the defeatists and obstructionists like Criscuolo. Mayor La Guardia has sought to clear Italian-Americans of this charge. The unimpeachable loyalty of the six million Americans of Italian blood has been extolled by the Mayor on several occasions.

Mr. Criscuolo as usual distorted the Mayor's clear-cut stand in defense of the great bulk of Italian-Americans, and in a scurrilous letter sent to the Fascist daily, *Progresso Italo-Americano*, he accused the Mayor of "promoting an investigation on the consular activities in this country in a manner to give grave concern to many Americans of Italian origin who may at the same time or other have participated in such educational activities sponsored by the Italian Government as were absolutely non-political." (*Progresso Italo-Americano*, June 20, 1940). (Italics his).

Again Signor Criscuolo is lying for the benefit of his principal, "Finito" Mussolini. We should tender thanks to Signor Criscuolo for sending us a letter dated Oct. 15, 1941, which reads:

"Naturally even the fascist groups, noticing that we are practically at war with Italy, have obeyed the warning of those who are at the helm of the city affairs."

At this point it is worthy of note that it was the Federal Bureau of Investigation which took in 1940 mild protective measures against the Fascist activities of the Italian diplomatic corps here, engaged in the dissemination of Fascist doctrines. How Mayor La Guardia could have opposed such a precautionary step we do not know, but the distortion of the truth served effectively the vicious Fascist aims of Criscuolo to create a false impression among Italian-Americans that they were suspected of "treasons." His is a destructive pen breeding discontent and suspicion.

The connections, of course, between the secret Fascist agents working underground here and the active Fascist propagandist, Luigi Criscuolo, must be traced through circumstantial evidence. The Fascists hate La Guardia, and Criscuolo works as a clearing house, through aspersions and denunciation in his bromidic bulletin and through personal addresses. We have amply documented his unwarranted attack against Mayor La Guardia at the meeting of the Greater New York Lodge of the Order Sons of Italy in America. Another speech against the Mayor was delivered by Criscuolo at a banquet in honor of an Italian

journalist, Vincenzo Capparelli, editor of a quasi-extinct sheet, *The New Flag*, a publication of no importance, held at the Ricciridi Restaurant, 132 West 43rd St., New York, on Oct. 29, 1941. At this gathering Criscuolo branded Mayor La Guardia as "an exponent of the discriminatory campaign against the Italo-Americans."

Of course, Criscuolo lies again and again. At the hearings before President Roosevelt's Committee on Fair Employment Practices, which held lately its first New York hearing at the Bar Association building, not one of the "millions of discriminated Italian-Americans"—which Criscuolo claims exist—appeared to register his complaint. The unjustly abused Mayor La Guardia told the Committee that a law should punish bias and the adoption of a suggestion advanced to the Committee by Lieutenant Governor Charles Poletti (*New York Herald-Tribune*, Feb. 17, 1942).

Luigi Criscuolo is a Fascist tool and it is amazing that he has succeeded in evading the foreign agents' registration act by concealing his Fascist mission. All his past and present political activities, his zeal in defending Mussolini and the "principal Fascist leaders," his scurrilous and recurrent attacks against upright citizens and anti-Fascist leaders, his anti-Semitic venom, his hypocrisy aimed at helping the Fascist gangsters, clearly show him that he has pursued since 1922 the role of a Fascist tool under the protection of the American flag.