



Labor News and Comment

Nationalist Smearers Attack Catholic Church

By Victor Riesel

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Nationalist operators have begun to attack the Catholic Church in an effort to exploit the racial and religious bigotry which is sweeping the country.

These propagandists are using the same techniques against the Catholics which their America First colleagues have used to smear the Jews.

Their indiscriminate attacks on the Catholics are aimed at winning political support for the isolationists in the West and South while the America First crowd

uses anti-Semitism for a political come-on in the mid-west.

The voice official magazine of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America carried a characteristic anti-Catholic editorial in its February edition. It speaks for hundreds of fundamentalist preachers and an organization which has 49 field secretaries operating in states as far West as California and Oregon.

Notice the anti-Jewish techniques the Voice used in the following quotes from its editorial:

"The Romanists are perfectly willing to have Protestant boys die to redeem Italy for the Pope . . . And these Romanists are well on their way to achieve these ambitions in America. They exercise more authority and prestige with the present Administration than they have ever exercised in our long history . . ."

"Contemplate these diplomatic appointments of the President and see the part that Rome plays in our foreign policy."

Then followed a long attack on Gens. William Donovan and Patrick Hurley, and Ambassador to Spain Carlton J. H. Hayes. This is the use of Gerald Smith's and the pro-Nazis' "Frankfurter-Rosenman" technique.

In Detroit and throughout the South the Ku Klux Klan is reorganizing politically—and it has not neglected its anti-Catholicism.

In Alabama the KKK is campaigning to elect ex-Gov. Talmadge to the U. S. Senate. In Detroit the KKK is closely allied with the city administration. Charles Spare, former Grand Ex-

alted Cyclops of the N. and boss of the Michig. has recently been appointed an investigator for the Lansing Grand Jury.

The Chicago "We, the Mothers, Mobilize for America," which is agitating for an immediate armistice with the Nazis, is selling a book attacking the famous labor encyclical of Pope Leo XIII.

The influential and widely respected Catholic newspaper, "Our Sunday Visitor," is leading the fight against this wave of bigotry. It has been syndicating a series of articles by Gabriel Lynn attacking anti-Jewish, anti-Catholic and anti-Negro propagandists. These pieces have been reaching more than 1,500,000 Catholics each week.

Recently the Sunday Visitor blasted Gerald L. K. Smith and his isolationist colleagues. Lynn wrote:

"Up from the South roared two firebrands, J. Frank Norris and Gerald L. K. Smith, both darlings of those persons from whose ranks came members for the Klan and the Black Legion. Both were preachers of the 'conversion-by-orgy' school . . . Both Norris and Smith soon acquired publications and radio outlets, enabling them to reach wide audiences with their hate-breeding exhortations . . ."

Lynn then hit hard at the recent wave of bigotry:

"There are, today, few communities . . . in which . . . traces may not be found of the stirring of those who foment hate-inspired conflicts of this nature. In times of national stress they move with increasing boldness, hoping to give momentum to their activity while the public attention is directed toward other affairs.

"Their presence may be regarded as certain when casual remarks are heard circulating, such as:

"I don't like that Hitler, but you have to hand it to him, he certainly knew how to handle the Jews; or, The time is coming when we're going to have to put the niggers in their place; or, Where does Roosevelt get that stuff, sending a representative to the Vatican."

It looks like the men-of-good-will are closing in on the bigotry racket.