

Coughlin Plotting Postwar Comeback

Sees Joe (McNazi) McWilliams Secretly In Meeting at Royal Oak

PM's Bureau



WASHINGTON, July 13. Joe McWilliams, pretty boy of the American pro-fascist front, and defendant in the current sedition trial, held a secret weekend conference with Charles E. Coughlin recently at the Shrine of the Little Flower, it was learned today.

Coughlin advised McWilliams, according to the latter's account of the meeting, to "sit tight" for the duration and predicted that "the movement" would flourish again as soon as the war ended.

The voice of Royal Oak was said to have told McWilliams that the "cards are stacked" against the Government in the sedition trial prophesying that everything will turn out all right for the defendants.

These disclosures were made by McWilliams himself in a long informal trantalk with a reliable Washington correspondent whom McWilliams mistakenly considered friendly to his cause. The correspondent has furnished a detailed report of the interview to PM.

The former Yorkville rabble-rouser and ex-resident of the Bellevue psychiatric ward, freely voiced his views on many matters during the interview, but spoke guardedly of some details of his session with Coughlin. It took place, he said, during a recent weekend court recess which permitted him to make a trip to Michigan.

McWilliams said he was told by Coughlin that after the war the "Nationalist" movement would come into its own. McWilliams quoted Coughlin as boasting that he had big plans for the future, centering on a country-wide "educational" campaign.

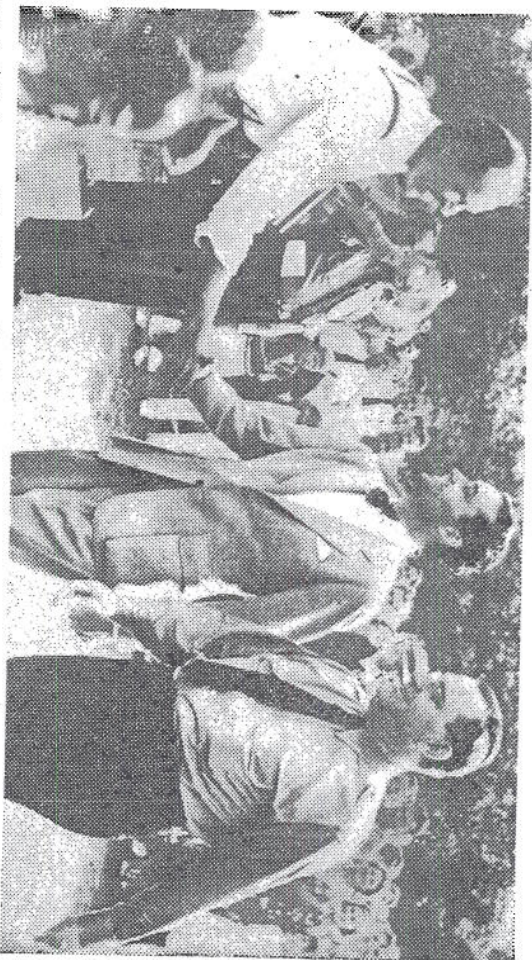
"We have to sit tight now," Coughlin reportedly told McWilliams, "but our day is coming."

According to McWilliams, Coughlin called his conduct during the trial "smart," especially praising his refusal to say or do anything "disruptive."

In recounting the meeting, McWilliams implied that a good many other subjects had been thrashed out with Coughlin, including McWilliams' own



Coughlin



This (A) is an old picture. It shows Joe McWilliams (center) with his pal Fritz Kuhn at a Bund rally in better days for both cronies. Bundstuehrer Kuhn is in jail for stealing Bund funds. McWilliams is now on trial in Washington on charges of plotting a Nazi conspiracy in the U. S. A. He is shown (B) outside the courtroom with co-defendant Col. Eugene Sanctuary. Even while he is being prosecuted for his past activities, McWilliams is plotting new ones.



plans for the future.

Chicago Warned of 'Der Tag'

These plans call for Joe to make a new start in Chicago where the "Chicago Tribune has created a more sympathetic atmosphere" for the "movement," he said. Coughlin approves of these plans, McWilliams declared.

Garrulous after nearly three years of silence urged upon him by Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, former Bund Fuehrer and fellow defendant in the sedition trial, McWilliams was eager to talk once he was convinced that the correspondent listening to him was not contaminated by contact with PM or other "alien" groups.

Hitler, McWilliams proclaimed, is one of the greatest figures in all history. The Nazi leader compares only with Mohammed as a historical figure, McWilliams said, thoughtfully suggesting that Hitler would be a greater force in history than even the Moslem leader.

The conversation began quite innocently when the correspondent, meeting McWilliams by chance, questioned him about the sedition trial and asked if he did not resent being tried with members of the Bund.

McWilliams said that the Bund was misunderstood and that Fritz Kuhn had been "railroaded" and was not a "bad guy." Likewise he explained that he had

worked closely in the "old days" with Bund leaders and found them "decent" agents intent only on helping America.

Joe freely set forth his opinion of some of his fellow defendants:

¶ Deathrage is the man of the future, "thoroughly trustworthy."

¶ Dennis is "OK" but still a little muddled on some "basic" issues including "anti-semitism."

¶ Smythe is a "card" and the way he can get himself and his organizations—notably the Protestant Chaplains Association—publicity is "amazing." McWilliams recalled with a chuckle recounting how Smythe had obtained "columns" in the New York papers when he threatened to "picket" Bellevue while McWilliams was undergoing a mental examination there.

Concerned That Smythe May Sing

McWilliams expressed concern, however, that Smythe may "crack" and "sing" in order to get off with a light sentence. He is also worried that one or two others may turn state's evidence but so far "everybody has been fine."

¶ Mrs. Dilling has written some "fine stuff" but is a "bore" and as for Mrs. Lois De Lafayette Washburn—she is a big laugh to Joe.

¶ Kunze, who cautioned Joe before Pearl Harbor to quit speechmaking and "lay low" is an "able, cold, calculating" cookie and the "smartest" of the defendants in Joe's opinion. When McWilliams talked of Kunze it is in what might be termed a subdued and respectful manner.

Kunze's beard, according to McWilliams, was grown especially for the trial. Later he will have it off and it will be that much more difficult to recognize him. Joe speaks with admiration of the mind that can plan such tricks. Asked what he thought of Gerald L. K. Smith, McWilliams revealed that he had also conferred with him recently ^{and} ~~during~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{one} of Smith's swings through the East.

"You fellows in the press don't realize the following that Smith has here in the East, particularly in Baltimore," McWilliams asserted.