

Father Coughlin: Fascist Demagogue---A New Series on the Radio Priest

Who Is the Man, What Is His Program, How Did He Rise?

**Aided by Big Business, America's
Number One Fascist Rose from
Obscurity to Lead a Movement**

By JOSEPH HANSEN

The Rise of the "Radio Priest"

In the summer of 1926, an obscure Catholic priest began broadcasting over the radio in Detroit.

For three years he spoke steadily without gaining any following beyond a local one. His speeches were not particularly striking. He said nothing to distinguish himself as different from hundreds of others who performed for America's loudspeakers.

Then the 1929 crash ushered in the worst depression United States capitalism had yet experienced.

Something different did occur then. The obscure priest launched a series of violent attacks against "communism." His name zoomed into the national spotlight.

He began broadening his activities like a business man who has succeeded in selling a huge issue of stock for a newly formed company.

In the lowest depths of the depression, he built himself a million dollar shrine. He began publishing a sleek magazine that carried not a line of advertising, yet sold for only a dime—an editor's day dream come true. He organized a wide political movement. He added radio stations to his network until today forty-eight are broadcasting his speeches—at an estimated cost of \$8,000 each—to an audience that may number millions.

Big Business tycoons count him an intimate. Many Congressmen consider him the greatest political force outside of the White House. Fascists the world over hail him as among the chief of their dark number.

The labor movement has denounced him repeatedly. This is the Reverend Charles E. Coughlin.

Political Checkerboard

The political program he has followed is as astounding as his rise from obscurity.

At first the "radio priest" urged his listeners to put their trust in President Herbert Hoover, the "great engineer." As late as January 11, 1931, he declared that "we have lost no faith whatsoever" in President Hoover and his cabinet.

Then he switched to the New Deal and supported it so eloquently that he became one of the most influential spokesmen for the Roosevelt Administration.

"Roosevelt or Ruin" was his slogan.

Millions believed him and chose Roosevelt.

On November 11, 1934, shortly after the rise of Adolph Hitler to power in Germany, he launched his organization, the National Union for Social Justice. He wrote the program for this organization himself. It has never elected him as its leader or constituted itself on democratic lines. Political discussion at its unit meetings is strictly forbidden. Coughlin is self-appointed supreme dictator.

In the 1936 presidential campaign he switched from the New Deal and supported William Lemke for president. When Lemke was beaten at the polls, the "radio priest" retired from public life. But his retirement was only temporary.

He came back on the air with a new twist to his political program—against the Jews... revolution... prepare for violence.

Now his movement is spreading from coast to coast. In every city unemployed youths hawk his magazine *Social Justice*. He is conducting an essay contest with prizes amounting to \$16,000.

Many people consider him the only hope, the only way out of the depression. Many others consider him the most dangerous menace yet to appear on the American political scene.

Father Coughlin Promises

The magazine and the radio speeches, copies of which Father Coughlin mails out free by the hundreds of thousands, are designed to appeal to those who have been crushed by the depression—the millions of unemployed, youth who see only a blank future, farmers facing ruin, those who have no more hope in Roosevelt's New Deal.

"I am for a just annual living wage," he declares. "I am for labor's right to organize. I am for the cost of living being maintained on an even keel; and I am for preferring the sanctity of human rights to the sanctity of property with government's chief concern for the poor."

Who could be against a program like that?

But Father Coughlin was not the first man to stand for labor's right to organize, nor the only one to point out the high cost of living. Father Coughlin is not the first orator to round out pungent and stinging phrases about the sanctity of human rights.

Why should a program so commonplace as that create such excitement and clamor, and out of an obscure priest create a national political figure with apparently unlimited funds at his disposal?

Because that is not his real program.

Coughlin and the New Deal

At one time, if your memory goes back as far as President Roosevelt's election campaign, the New Deal promised these very same things.

And Father Coughlin backed the New Deal one hundred per cent.

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Socialist Appeal

Official Organ of the Socialist Workers Party, Section of the Fourth International—Issued Twice Weekly

VOL. III, NO. 41

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 1939

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**BUILD WORKERS'
DEFENSE GUARDS**

Briggs Strikers Go Over The Top With a Resounding Union Victory

WAA LEADERS FAWN BEFORE MRS. ROOSEVELT

**No Money? Why, Go
To School, Says the
President's Wife**

By NAT LEVINE
(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
WASHINGTON, D. C., June 7.—"It doesn't always mean having more money to live better," Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt told the unemployed delegates at the "Right to Work Congress" of the Workers Alliance here today. "It's a matter of more education," she smilingly told the unemployed delegates who, one after another had grimly described Sunday afternoon the horrible destitution abounding in the cities and towns they had come from.

Attired in a dress of pastel blue and wearing a black, large trimmed straw hat, Mrs. Roosevelt graciously posed for photographers with David Lasser, Stalinist president of the Workers Alliance, as he fawningly presented her with an honorary membership in the Workers Alliance.

That Mrs. Roosevelt would not have spoken to the Workers (Continued on Page 2)

Mass Meeting To Greet Nat'l Convention

**Genora Johnson and
Other Party Leaders
Will Speak June 30**

A mass meeting to greet the anti-war convention of the Socialist Workers Party will be held at Irving Plaza, Friday, June 30 at 8 P.M.

The formal sessions of the convention will begin Saturday morning, July 1, also at Irving Plaza, and will be held continuously to July 5.

Genora Johnson, famed leader of the Women's Auxiliary in the great strikes of the Flint auto workers, will make her first appearance on the New York platform of the Socialist Workers Party at the June 30 meeting. In addition, the speakers list will include V. R. Dunne, outstanding labor leader of Minneapolis; Glen Trimble of San Francisco; Reuben Plaskett, Negro militant and leader of the unemployed movement in New Jersey; George Clarke from Detroit; and Nathan Gould, National Secretary of the Young People's Socialist League.

Max Shachtman, representing the Political Committee of the party will give the main address of the evening and James P. Cannon will preside as chairman.

Reports from all over the country indicate an intense in-

"Before the Party Convention," a discussion article by James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, appears on page 3 of this issue.

terest in the forthcoming convention and a full attendance of delegates from all sections, including newly organized branches in the Pacific Northwest, the deep South, and New England.

PICKET LINE GREET'S FINK MANNED SHIP

**Arrival Precipitates
Fight Between S.U.P.
And Government**

Determined pickets of the West Coast organizations of the sailors, firemen, licensed officers, and cooks and stewards greeted the arrival of the S. S. "Coldbrook" at the Puget Sound port of Bellingham, Washington. It was the first of four Maritime Commission ships designated for the Seattle Orient run. Its arrival has precipitated the long-brewing contest between the government commission and the Sailors Union of the Pacific over the basic issue: shall the Government be permitted to smash unionism on the waterfronts by establishing government control over hiring of seamen, or shall all seamen be shipped from union hiring halls?

Balked in an attempt to put cargo aboard the "Coldbrook" at Bellingham because of the refusal of longshoremen and teamsters to crash the picket lines, the ship was shifted to Seattle, Washington, where a stronger picket line awaited it. The crew, supplied on the East Coast by the National Maritime Union through the fink hall, was declared finky by the various West Coast organizations participating in the picketing, when the crew took the ship out of Bellingham.

The inspiring demonstration of solidarity with the sailors by the teamsters, longshoremen, and others, is unquestionably due to the fact that government success in forcing hiring through any channels other than union halls, would be a blow at all unions on the waterfront.

Thus the fight, carried on so valiantly by the Sailors Union of the Pacific, for almost a year, has finally born fruit, in a united struggle of the main sections of West Coast labor against the regimentation of the seafarers, one of the key points in the Government war-preparedness program.

NOTICE

A very important meeting of all members of local New York and the Y.P.S.L. will be held this Tuesday, June 13, 8:00 P.M. at Irving Plaza Hall. All members are instructed to attend without fail. Admission by card only.

Why Did the New York Times Suppress Araquistain's Story on Spain's Gold?

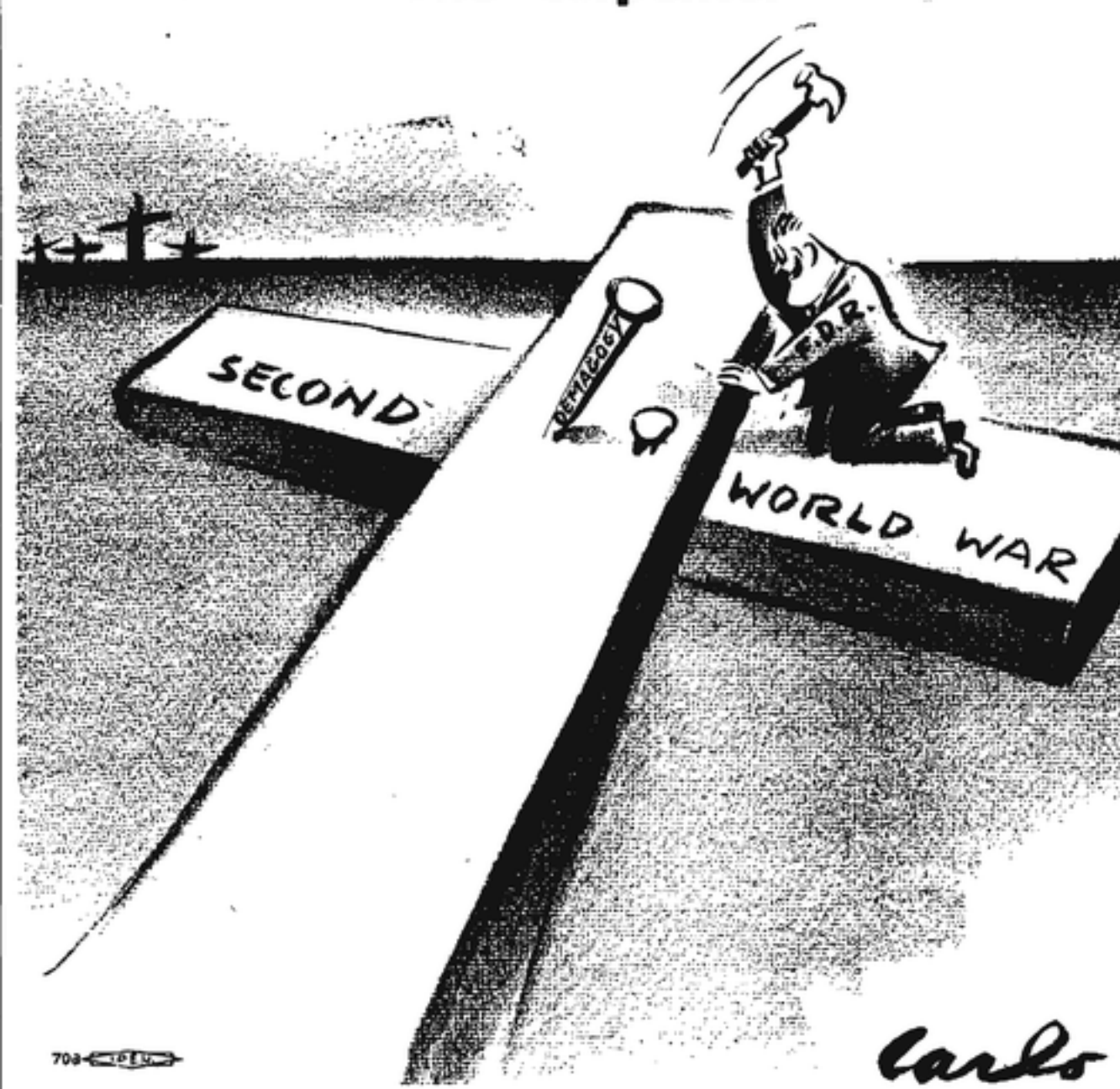
Why did the New York Times suppress two of the series of articles by Luis Araquistain which it started to print?

Araquistain was Ambassador to France of the Loyalist Government during the premiership of Largo Caballero, his close personal friend and co-leader of the Spanish Socialist Party.

He was in a position, during the Civil War, to know all the details of the crimes of Stalin and his gang in Spain. He remained silent about these crimes—and about his own!—when telling the story might have changed the whole situation and perhaps the fate of the Spanish working class.

After the cruel defeat, he decided to speak, at least in part. He wrote a series of articles for the North American Newspaper Alliance (NANA), the newspaper feature syndicate controlled by the New York Times. The Times started printing the articles—on obscure back pages, even though their contents were sensational enough by any newspaper standards. It printed three articles. Two of them it did not print.

The Carpenter



Hail the King and Queen...If You Believe in Cruelty and Oppression

Hail the King and Queen, Defenders of the Faith, Emperor and Empress of India and all other colonies, etc., etc. Hail them if you have the soul of a slave or a flunkie. Hail them if you believe in cruelty and oppression.

The five hundred million peoples of the British Empire do not hail them. In India, in Ceylon, in the Near East, in South Africa, in Ireland, in the West Indies, those oppressed by British "democracy" are showing their teeth and clenched fists, their irreconcilable determination to end once and for all the rule of the British capitalists whom this gentleman and his lady serve as traveling salesmen.

The refugees and immigrants in this country from the British Empire do not hail them. Nor do the millions of American workers who understand what these gilded parasites represent.

Why do the Royal couple drive through lanes of soldiers who stand facing the people with fixed bayonets? Why are the roofs along their route filled with squads of machine-gunners and sharpshooters? Why are armies of police and G-men surrounding them? Why, during their visit to the World's Fair, are all the buildings and grounds they visit emptied of visitors, as if a plague raged around the two? These incredibly elaborate precautions—the route they take has been studied for months

by American authorities—are not designed merely to prevent some lunatic from throwing a bomb. No, they are primarily designed against perfectly sane men and women—the refugees and immigrants from the British Empire, their friends and sympathizers—who might peacefully demonstrate against these symbols of the British ruling class.

The news seeps out that the police in various parts of the country are making preventive arrests of known enemies of British rule, so that not a single "untoward incident" shall occur. Sean Russell, Irish Republican leader, was released by Federal authorities in Detroit only after a threat by Irish congressmen had threatened to boycott the reception for their Majesties (if they were loyal to Ireland's struggle they'd boycott it anyway). But Russell was too well-known; hundreds of lesser-known opponents of British rule stay in jail until their Majesties leave the country.

Not all the fakery of mobilizing tens of thousands of little school children, spending tens of thousands of dollars stolen from the unemployed for bunting and decorations, using hundreds of thousands of troops and armed men, airplanes, destroyers, mine sweepers, can hide the simple fact: the millions who know the meaning of the rule of the British Empire, loathe and detest its dress-horse representatives.

Militant Action Brings Results

**Company Reinstates
Fired Men; Contract
Improves Conditions**

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

DETROIT, June 7—15,000 Briggs workers went over the top! The strike against Briggs Manufacturing is settled with a resounding victory for the United Automobile Workers of America. The union is on the march!

With great unanimity and enthusiasm five thousand members of Briggs local 212, their faces browned from days of service on the picket lines, roared their approval of the new agreement at Cass Technical High School today. The contract signed marks a great improvement over the previous agreement.

Its provisions will more firmly establish the local in the plants than ever before. Not everything that the union wanted was gained. That was to be expected. But all revisions made in the agreement were to the advantage of the union and not the company. Therein lies the signal victory of local 212.

Bluff Falls
The story of the strike can be told in a few brief words. The company tried to bluff the union out of its fundamental rights. The union wouldn't be bluffed. And it refused to temporize. It struck. The power and effectiveness of the strike convinced the company that such a force, backed by mass power and militancy couldn't be tricked, and it was questionable whether it could be beaten. Result: Briggs stopped bluffing and came to heel.

The strike broke out originally over a long list of grievances, most important of which were the firing of fifteen leading union men because of aggressive action in the plants. The picket lines on the outside and the idle assembly lines on the inside gave the company a quick change of heart. When under these circumstances, Arbitrator Dewey ordered twelve of these unionists reinstated—his eye was cocked on that picket line—the company acceded.

Ask "Union Shop"
With this victory under its belt union negotiators became more insistent in their demand for the "union shop". Briggs local represented the overwhelming majority of the workers employed in the Briggs plants. There was no reason why all should not be obliged to belong to the union. Over 12,000 signatures had been obtained asking for the "union shop".

The conditions of the agreement, despite their tentative character, come as near to gaining the "union shop" as any ever obtained in the automobile industry. Only the extreme lateness of the production season complicated by Homer Martin's spurious and strikebreaking claims to represent "a majority" caused the local to take less than its original demand. The contract now provides that in the National (Continued on Page 2)

(See page 4 for details of Araquistain's suppressed story.)