

Who Is Coughlin, 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
INSTALLMENT III

Coughlin Opposes Social Security

Yes, Coughlin is thoroughly devoted to capitalism. He opposes capitalism granting even the slightest concession to labor.

To guarantee food and clothing to a laboring man and his family when some sordid capitalist throws him out of a job would threaten the capitalist structure Father Coughlin thinks!

"Studying it (the Social Security Act) closely, one discovers that basically it is socialistic in its conception and aims. It is socialism of the old school; socialism that offers a remedy more disastrous than the threatened evil; socialism that demands we take from those who have and give to those who have not." (Social Justice, October 17, 1938.)

In the same editorial he advocates giving everyone an "annual living wage" instead of Social Security.

What Father Coughlin considers an "annual living wage" in dollars he does not state. It must be less than social security to gain his approval!

And what would be wrong with giving a decent annual living wage (not less than \$2,500 at present cost of living) and Social Security? A labor government could easily obtain that as a minimum for the workers in the richest land on the face of the earth.

Coughlin Favors Regimentation of Labor

The industrial barons have long been struggling to enact changes into the Wagner Act which would benefit them. Coughlin backs up the changes they want. There must be "no conflict" between labor and the employers, Coughlin says. "National unity" is what he wants.

"Make the United States Department of Labor a real power. Let it take over the functions of collective bargaining—the functions which the American Federation of Labor is now trying to fulfill. Let it supplant the A. F. of L. entirely." (Interview published in the Detroit Times, October 10, 1934.)

Does this sound like giving labor the right to organize? What Coughlin advocates in the quotation above is exactly what Mussolini and Hitler advocated and what they put into effect.

Concentration camps, forced labor, prisons, starvation, endless hours for labor—this is what Father Coughlin's plan means.

Father Coughlin Favors War

Father Coughlin claims that he is opposed to war. But close attention to his words shows that he is opposed only to war against Germany and Italy at the present time. And even on this point he will shift quickly enough when the war actually breaks. He supported Roosevelt's war program once before. It will not be difficult for him to flop back again during the war hysteria and cry sternly over his network: "Roosevelt's War or Ruin!"

There is no dearth of statements he has made on this point too, disclosing his real views.

On January 19, 1930, in the discourse entitled "Christ or the Red Fog," Coughlin attacked a Milwaukee students' conference for adopting a resolution opposing war. He condemned the students because:

"They are unwilling to assist in building up a better navy and a stronger army to protect a country where Christ is still a King." (Father Charles E. Coughlin, p. 68.)

Coughlin is not less devoted to capitalism and private property than Roosevelt. He too wants a big navy and a big army. He too wants unemployed youth marching behind bayonets.

The Fine Art of Jew-Baiting

So incensed are the American workers at the unparalleled brutality with which Hitler has persecuted the Jews, and so great has been the wave of sympathy for them that Coughlin has attempted to deny that he is a Jew-baiter.

"We disavow all participation with those who hate Jews because they are Jews. . . ." (Social Justice, May 1, 1939.) "If and when anti-Semitism shows its ugly head here, I shall be the first, without hope of receiving reward to condemn it, both by voice and deed." (Reprinted in Social Justice, May 1, 1939.)

But a fascist movement if it is to be successful must have a scapegoat on whom the frenzied masses can vent their rage in place of the capitalists who deserve it. (Naturally the capitalists pay well for this service.) And so Coughlin too must have a scapegoat. Coughlin like Hitler and Mussolini has selected the Jew for his scapegoat.

In order to maintain that he is not anti-Semitic, he divides Jews into two categories. Five per cent of them are religious, he postulates. This five per cent he favors—and if they are ever persecuted, he declares, you will find him in their front ranks! The other ninety-five per cent, he says, are not religious. They are communists, socialists, atheists, international bankers, and dealers in gold. In fact Father Coughlin does not pause at words far more lurid than these in marking the Jews for victims on the reeking altar of capitalism.

At the very height of Hitler's persecution of the Jews, when the whole world watched horrified, and even reactionaries scurried to place themselves on record as opposing this persecution, Father Coughlin defended Hitler's bloody pogrom and attacked the Jewish victims. (Radio speech, November 20, 1938.)

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Socialist Appeal

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

VOL. III, NO. 43

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1939

**BUILD WORKERS'
DEFENSE GUARDS**

3c a Copy

Organized Labor Stages Great Comeback In Minneapolis Elections

Roosevelt Offers Jobless 22c a Day

**Congress Committee
Accepts Bill Lopping
Billion from W.P.A.**

\$1.57 per week is enough for one unemployed person to eat, house, drink and be merry—so says President Roosevelt and so say after him the reactionary members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee.

Twenty-two cents a day for all the needs of a human being! That is the concrete, horrible meaning of the 1940 relief bill introduced Wednesday into Congress by the House Appropriations Subcommittee, embodying the main recommendations on relief made by President Roosevelt in his April 27 relief message to Congress.

The sub-committee's bill accepted Roosevelt's proposed figure for W.P.A. for the fiscal year which begins July 1: \$1,477,000,000, which is far more than a billion dollars less than the amount allotted to the W.P.A. in the current year, which was \$2,539,805,000. By Roosevelt's own computation, the most his figure would permit is a total of 2,000,000 W.P.A. jobs during the year beginning July 1—500,000 fewer jobs than those actually working on W.P.A. today, and 1,350,000 fewer than were working in November, 1938. Immediately after being re-elected, Roosevelt started the W.P.A. slashes which he still continues ever further.

The American Association of Social Workers, authoritative professional body of persons engaged in relief management, on May 31 issued a report that 23,000 persons in this country were dependent on relief, and that \$3.59 of W.P.A. Federal funds were being expended for every dollar spent by local relief agencies. On this basis, all relief, W.P.A. and local.

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French Dictatorship Jails Another Young Militant

**Rigal, Steve, Schmit Held Incommunicado
—Technicians' Federation Protests**

Repression of working class militants continues in France with unabated fury. Latest in a series of persecutions directed against those revolutionaries who conduct consistent anti-war activities, is the "preventive arrest" of comrade Schmit, a young Fourth Internationalist. Rigal and Steve whose "preventive arrests" have already been reported in the Appeal have not yet been released. No explanation of the arrests has been given by the Daladier government which acted under the anti-labor decree laws.

The arrest of Steve, Rigal and Schmit for their anti-military agitation is only the most flagrant of many instances of repression. Thousands of workers are still in jail for their participation in the November 30 general strike. Many working-class editors have been imprisoned, their papers seized.

By arresting Steve, Rigal and Schmit without any specific pretext or charge the government has however added a new wrinkle to its methods of suppression.

All Workers Affected

Appealing to all working-class organizations to take action against the arrests, the Fourth Internationalists in France point out that "the question which poses itself for these three comrades today may be posed for thousands of others tomorrow." They further point out that while working-class editors have been hounded, and scores of militants thrown into jail, the fascists are permitted to act freely without let or hindrance.

The newspaper of the Federation of Technicians, to which organization Steve belonged, published an appeal in its May issue calling for his release.

New World War Crisis Breaking On European and Asiatic Fronts

Japanese Challenge British for Supremacy in China

War this summer is the prediction of some, the fear of many. The renewed crisis is breaking simultaneously on two fronts—Central Europe and the Far East.

These recurring crises are really part of one permanent and continuous crisis that will be with us until the gangster-imperialists in London, Paris, Washington, Rome, Tokyo, and Berlin resort finally to arms in a general war.

The developments in the Far East revolve around a direct Japanese challenge to Britain for supremacy in China. Despite the apparently broad sweep of its military victories,

the Japanese drive for robber conquest of China has actually been stalemated. Economic and financial weapons wielded by Japan's British and American and French rivals have contributed almost as much to this stalemate as the continuing dogged resistance of the Chinese army in the western provinces and the guerrilla forces throughout the conquered territory.

Make Scant Headway

Unable to "pacify" the land over-run by its armies, the Japanese have been unable to make serious headway in exploiting the fruits of their conquest. Especially in the monetary field, the British have employed the weapons of their superior economic resources to block Japan's attempts to float a stable currency capable of competing with the Chinese dollar, which has been kept bolstered up by an exchange stabilization fund manipulated by the British banks. (The recent drop in the Chinese dollar exchange rate was a manipulated profit-taking maneuver that revealed the extent of British financial control.)

The issue of the foreign con-

Blockaded Tientsin Forces Far Eastern Control Issue

cessions in the Chinese treaty ports is being forced in a highly spectacular manner. The international area at Amoy, south China port, and the British and French concessions at Tientsin, are being blockaded by Japanese forces. The Japanese have made it obvious that they are aiming at the same time at the international area of Shanghai, chief stronghold of the wealth of Japan's imperialist rivals, Britain, the United States, and France. That in the course of the present crisis the Japanese will extend the offensive to Shanghai is a foregone conclusion.

Browder Announces Purge of C.P. Ranks and Leadership

Report to Party's National Committee Refers to Widespread Discontent in Ranks

A sweeping purge of the ranks and especially the leadership of the Communist party in this country—a purge as thorough-going and vicious as those conducted by Stalin in the Soviet Union—is now being conducted under the direction of Chief Stalinist Commissar Earl Browder, party general secretary, according to his own announcement.

The news of the purge is contained in the text of a report delivered by Browder on May 6 to 8, 1939, at a meeting in New York of the National Committee of the Communist Party.

Although the text of the report as originally printed in the Daily Worker deliberately omits any reference to the purge and the discontent among the ranks of the membership, it is contained in detail in the text of the report as published by "Workers Library

Labor Candidates Poll Huge Vote

**Shows Labor Has Reformed Political Ranks
Since Gubernatorial Defeat—Several
Candidates on Labor Slate Elected**

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

MINNEAPOLIS, June 13—Organized labor made a great comeback in Monday's city elections, almost but not quite wiping out the crushing advances made by the Republican machine eight months ago.

T. A. Eide, the labor candidate for mayor, received 74,962 votes, losing by only 7,257 to the incumbent, Mayor Leach.

The extraordinary significance of this vote can be understood by comparing it to the gubernatorial elections eight months ago, when Farmer-Labor Governor Benson lost to the Republican Stassen by over 250,000 votes in the state,

with comparable figures for Minneapolis.

Organized labor resisted the reactionaries all along the line.

In the fight for the Board of Estimate and Taxation, Al Hanson, laborite, squeezed out a victory over the capitalist candidate, Benton, by 70,734 to 68,610.

H. G. Knight, candidate of the labor slate, was elected to the Board of Park Commissioners.

Margaret Larson, labor-endorsed, captured one of the two library directorships.

Owen Cunningham, trade unionist, rolled up 81,447 votes to win the election for the unexpired term on the school board. Roy M. Weir, Central Labor Union organizer, came within an eyelash of capturing another post on the school board.

Loss Proposal Defeated

The charter amendment, No. 10, sought by the reactionaries, was voted down, 69,753 to 66,108.

In the aldermanic race, Sylvester Blosky, member of the Milk Drivers Union and on the labor slate, upset the incumbent, Sullivan. Eide also carried this ward, the first labor candidate ever to win a first ward majority over Leach.

In the sixth ward, Al Bastis, old-time laborite, smothered his capitalist opponent, and Stanley Anderson, in the tenth, won over his opponent by 9,106 to 5,521. Another laborite, John Nelson, carried the eleventh ward and, in the twelfth, Mike Foley lost to the reactionaries by only 221 votes.

The returns show that Eide carried a majority of the city's thirteen wards. Eide won out in the first, third, sixth, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth. It was the fourth, seventh, eighth and thirteenth that won for Leach, particularly the upper-middle class eighth and thirteenth. Leach polled 21,970 votes from these two wards, and that gave him the election. The unions had been able to break down several of the border wards. The second, always reactionary, was carried by Leach by less than a thousand votes, and in the fifth, Leach got less than 800 majority.

Extent of Comeback

When last November, the Farmer-Labor movement, which two years before had won by a quarter of a million votes, instead lost by an equal number, and that half-million vote change in the state was paralleled in Minneapolis, political commentators predicted that the Farmer-Labor Party—and by implication, all labor party movements—would be dead for years in Minnesota.

Yet, a scant eight months later, the trade union movement has been able to re-form

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Carlo