

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
MEMORANDUM

Coughlin
JMK

hkt
Nov 7

7NT

Date August 22, 1938

X

From Sidney Wallach
To M. D. Waldman
Subject Father Coughlin and the Protocols

I thought you would be interested in having summarized those steps which have been taken in the matter of Father Coughlin's revival of the Protocols. We have worked very closely with the National Conference of Jews and Christians and Mr. Minsky on this:

1) As soon as it was learned that Father Coughlin was going to revive the Protocols, a conference was held with Mr. Reginald T. Kennedy of the staff of the *W C J C*, and Mr. Schneiderman. It was the opinion of the former that Father Coughlin was reviving the Protocols in an effort to stage a comeback and that it would be dangerous therefore to play into his hands by provoking a public controversy. Mr. Schneiderman had prepared a carefully written editorial released through the Seven Arts advising Jews to refrain from *excitation* and invective.

2) By wire and correspondence interested parties in Detroit, particularly Slowovitz of the Detroit Jewish Chronicle, were reached conveying to them our estimate of Coughlin's purposes and advising them that an open battle would be serving Coughlin's aims and in all probability enlist several Catholic editors such as Patrick Scanlon of Brooklyn who are pro Coughlin forces. Our Detroit friends decided to follow this advice and acted accordingly.

3) An editorial was drafted, signed by Mr. Kennedy, and sent to the Michigan Catholic, the official organ of the Archdiocese. Several days elapsed without reply from the Michigan Catholic whereupon the editor of the Michigan Catholic was wired. He then sent a reply, "No editorial on Protocols yet." This was interpreted to mean that the approval of the Archbishop was being so-

licited but that no decision had as yet been made.

4) In order to stimulate the publication of this editorial, the full matter was placed before Mr. Frank W. Hall of the N. C. W. C. in Washington who expressed extreme antagonism to the Protocol activities of Father Coughlin and offered to think the matter over. Subsequently Mr. Hall advised that we should watch the Michigan Catholic, whereupon an editorial appeared in that paper called "Catholics and anti-Semitism" which was an indirect rebuke to Father Coughlin and any other Catholics who may be inclined to indulge in anti-Semitism. After the appearance of this editorial it was suggested to Mr. Hall that the N. C. W. C. News Service release the editorial to the Catholic press especially in connection with two other ones which appeared respectively in The Witness, organ of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. One of these editorials dealt specifically with the refutation of the Protocols in referring to Father Coughlin's articles; the other with anti-Semitism in general.

5) Our Detroit friends were advised of the editorial in the Michigan Catholic and urged to feature it on the front page of the next issue of the Detroit Jewish Chronicle. A copy of the editorial and a story was released through the Seven Arts.

6) In the interim Dr. Paul Hutchinson, managing editor of the Christian Century, was advised of the entire matter. Special attention was called to that point in Coughlin's argument which dealt directly with the "desirability of forming a united Christian front." It was suggested that Dr. Hutchinson write an editorial and say that Protestant Christians would be ill-advised if they joined in a Coughlin "Christian front." An editorial on this issue appeared in The Christian Century of August 17th. A copy of this editorial was likewise called to the attention of our Detroit friends.

7) An editorial was stimulated in the Catholic Interracial

Review on the general subject of racial and religious prejudice which incidentally refuted the contents of Coughlin's articles.

8) Just prior to the appearance of Coughlin's articles, an editorial and letter which appeared in the ^{influential} intellectual Catholic publication AMERICA, issue of April 30, 1938, ~~was~~ ^{was} reprinted ^{by me} and distributed throughout the country.

(10)