

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

Coughlin

To David Bernstein
George Hexter
 From S. A. Fineberg
 Subject _____

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Date July 7, 1939.

My trips to Worcester, Providence and Fall River indicated that the chief problem in these and other New England communities is Father Coughlin, who has a tremendous following among the Catholic labor groups in such factory cities.

The literature which we have available is considered too intellectual for the type of individuals who are increasingly pro-Coughlin. The Jewish leaders are asking for folders of the "read while you run" type (the sort of thing that the anti-Semites use for driving home a few statements effectively). The demand was for something easily and quickly read (preferably a series of such items) driving home in a few words:

1. That Coughlin does not have official church backing.
2. What leading Catholics say against Coughlin.
3. That he is anti-union.
4. That Coughlin is backed by the Nazis and is "Hitler's hatchet man."

Such material must be printed by union labor and bear the union imprint. It should be sponsored by some labor group and must be addressed directly and specifically to laborers. The material must be chosen and worded accordingly, bearing in mind that it is to be distributed in factories or at the gates of factories. It will be necessary to search through Social Justice and Coughlin speeches for statements which he has made that may be considered anti-labor or anti-union. The literature already available for distribution contains ample useful material but in present form is considered too "high-brow" for the type of people to be reached. A series of effectively worded and preferably, illustrated, series of well-worded pamphlets will be eagerly accepted for distribution in Worcester, Providence, Fall River, and similar communities where Coughlin is making tremendous inroads through his radio addresses and Social Justice.

Transport Workers' Union ready to help - See Newman Levy