

May 16, 1941

THE CHRISTIAN FRONT was originally organized at the Church of the Paulist Fathers on 39th Street, New York City. Many similar organizations were formed, and, although using other names in various localities, later became part and parcel of the Christian Front. These organizations adopted Father Coughlin as their patron saint, Fr. Coughlin adopted these organizations as his own. The Christian Front was more or less disbanded after the arrest of 17 of its members by the Federal Government on the charge of conspiring to overthrow the government. The defendants were acquitted.

The Christian Front is now being reorganized under a new name. Several members of the Catholic clergy are behind this re-organization, among them are Father Keeling of the Bronx, Father Edward Lodge Curran of Brooklyn, Father Edward Brophy of Queens, Father Gillis, and Father Roth

and several others whose names will be hereafter mentioned.

Judge Herbert O'Brien of the Domestic Relations Court in Queens is also one of the promoters of the movement.

The name of the organization will be known as the American Committee for Peace and Justice, and the branches are being called "study groups". Father Keeling of the Bronx has been responsible for the formation of a number of so-called study groups. These study groups have to do with the so-called fight between Christians and non-Christians.

One of the study groups meets at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 39th Street and First Avenue. John Hanahan is in charge.

Another study group meets at the Dominican House on East 161st Street.

A third group meets at St. Francis Church of Assisi 1546 Shakespeare Avenue.

The first groups above referred to (The St. Catherine's group) held a meeting on February 24, 1941. The speakers were William Ryan, former Christian Front leader in Queens, John Hanahan, Father Keeling and Father Roth delivered the benediction. There were 125 men and women present, mostly former members of the Christian Front. William Ryan, the first speaker attacked the Lend-Lease Bill. Judge O'Brien the second speaker attacked Secretary Morganthau and accused him of selling the country down the river. O'Brien spoke about his visit with William Goodwin of Queens to Washington and their testimony before the Senate Committee on the Lend-Lease Bill. He criticized the controlled press, which smeared him because of his testimony. He spoke of "a certain group of people who came here for a haven of refuge and who are now confusing the American people. This same groups was cursed by Christ 2000 years ago and people are cursing them now," he shouted. His audience

understood him very clearly that he was referring to the Jews as the ones who are creating trouble and confusion in this country. He spoke of a Mr. Gross, a former client of his, who bought up huge mortgages and property in Germany during the inflation days, "that seems to be what THEY expect will come here and they have already started to confuse our people."

Sanahan attacked the Lend-Lease Bill and Great Britain,

Father Keeling confined himself solely to an attack on England.

Father Roth attacked Free Masonry and said "the underlying cause of Europe's trouble starts with the Grand Orient guidance of the Versailles Treaty. He said that this same Masonic group is furiously endeavoring in this country to cause Christian groups to split up and fight each other, all for the benefit of non-Christians. He stated further that the Grand Orient was responsible for placing many Jews in key positions in the French government to the detriment and ultimate sabotage of the interests of the people.

A mimeographed sheet was handed out at this meeting for the membership to attend a Mass for peace under the American Committee for Peace and Justice, on Washington's Birthday, February 22d, at the Church of St. Francis Xavier, 30 West 16th Street. The Rev. John P. Delaney, S.J. Xavier Labor School will preach the sermon!

Another circular was distributed announcing a mass meeting for peace, at the Midtown Music Hall, 846 Seventh Avenue, under the auspices of the same organization, and the speaker announced was Father Doyle of the Fathers of Mercy.

It is interesting to bear in mind here, that a Father Dobson was connected with the Labor Schools and also Father Delaney, as well as several other priests, appeared at a Christian Front and spoke on the subject of "trade unionism." Another speaker announced for this meeting was Dr. George Sullivan, founder of the Trinity League, and Wisdom. Wisdom is the Paulist Father sheet, and the Paulist Fathers' Church was the original scene and site for original Christian Front.

On February 25th the American Committee for Peace and Justice held at Midtown Music Hall, 846 Seventh Avenue, a meeting at which there were present about 100 people. Two collections were made, one for this organization and one to help finance the Paul Reveres, an anti-Semitic group. Fat Clare was the chairman, and the speakers were Father Moran of the Paulist Fathers Church on 59th Street, Brother Ahern, Dr. George Sullivan, and Father Buffes delivered the invocation.

Father Moran is about 60 years of age, born in Ireland, claimed he "fought for Ireland's freedom" and attacked the press for being pro-British. He championed Father Coughlin "as a great voice that had been stilled."

Brother Ahern spoke on the Catholic Church. He stated that if anyone believes in condemning Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin, they ought also to include the Masonic Church. He referred to many propaganda agencies the English have here. He praised Lindbergh for telling the truth, even if at the expense of being branded a Nazi. He urged his audience to write to Msgr. Fulton Sheen to speak for them and to take up where Father Coughlin left off. He stated, "you people here should realize that the only one who can make peace is the Catholic Church and the Pope. There is only one religion now, and that is the Catholic Religion. You must flood Congress with letters, protesting the passing of the Lend-Lease Bill.

Dr. George Sullivan, who is also teacher in a school in New Rochelle, attacked Morgenthau.

Father Moran, had, during the existence of the Christian Front been active against the Jews.

It was Father Burke who arranged with Father Dobsen to start the labor lectures at the Christian Front meetings.

A report of March 11th indicates that Rev. Edward Lodge Curran is actively organizing members of the various branches of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, particularly in Brooklyn for the above organization, and he is being assisted by a well known Irish woman in Brooklyn, who is organizing the ladies' auxiliary group. Father Curran is also recruiting from the Knights of Columbus in Brooklyn. Henigan stated that they are carefully selecting men and women to attend the "study groups", in order to build them up individually as possible group leaders, and that general appeal for members will not come until after the groups are well organized.

March 13th, meeting International Catholic Truth Society, 1100 present, Knights of Columbus Building, 1 Prospect Place, Brooklyn, N. Y. Speakers: Chairman, Dr. Phelan, Dean of St. Johns, Father Edward Lodge Curran, ex-Senator McNaboe, Councilman Moran of Queens, Councilman Barry of Queens, Father Keeling was on the platform but did not speak. Brother Ahern was there, a number of the 17 Christian Front defendants were present, as well as a large number of Christian Fronters. None of the speakers were openly anti-Semitic.

A petition was distributed entitled "To whom it may concern" and was in favor of pledging support to "Judge O'Brien in any undertaking or action which he may see fit to pursue at any time in the future."

A cheap paper leaflet issued by the America First Committee title "War is the breeder of Isms" was distributed. On the reverse side of this circular is a reprint from the World-Telegram, showing an order for four and a half million special tags for identifying war dead and wounded ordered by the Army.

Meeting March 25th of American Committee for Peace and Justice, Midtown Music Hall, 846 Seventh Avenue. Pat Clare was the Chairman, Dr. Atkinson and Brother Ahern were the speakers. Dr. Atkinson, formerly a Baptist was converted to Catholicism.

He is connected with the Trinity League. Brother Ahern sang Irish songs. He was sorely put out because of an article that appeared referring to him as anti-Semitic. He denied that he was anti-Semitic and anti-Protestant.

Meeting Christian Front, April 2d, Shields Hall, 530 Seventh Avenue; on the platform was Father Brophy, another priest and William Ryan of Queens. A booklet entitled "The Christian Front" by Father Brophy was sold at the door. Petitions were circulated in the hall, thanking Judge O'Brien for his activities. Petitions issued by Father Curran with an anti-war resolution was circulated for signature. Coughlin's name was mentioned from the platform and brought great applause, the crowd would rise, their actions at times appeared to be fanatic. Now and then the audience would yell words like "Jew", "Jewish" "War Monger". A telegram was read from the platform sent by Francis Moran of the Boston Christian Front congratulating the Brooklyn crowd. Ryan was the first speaker. He stated that this audience was American, that they "would sing the The Star Spangled Banner and not that other song, God Bless America, the song of the anti-Christians." He stated "don't think the Jews have quit the Communist Party because of the Hitler-Stalin pact. I watched the Browder protest meeting. I watched the crowds at Wesca Temple and the Hotel Capital, and I tell you that 98% of them were non-Gentiles. If you rid the Communist Party of Jews, the party could hold its meetings in a telephone booth without embarrassment." He further stated, that if the great Father Coughlin had been permitted the air, the Lend Lease Bill would have been impossible.

Father Brophy spoke for almost an hour. He attacked the Catholics and Christians who were members of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. "These Catholics are the Judases who have only forgotten to hang themselves." Father Brophy attacked Dorothy Thompson, Clarence Streit and Thomas Mann.

Meeting April 15th, American Committee for Peace and Justice, Midtown Musica Hall, 845 Seventh Avenue. This was a committee meeting for the purpose of starting a big meeting in accordance with a speech made by the Rev. Edward Lodge Curran to "memorialize the Irish martyrs of 1916."

A letter was sent out to these groups which reads as follows:-

"April 15, 1941

Dear Member:

We will meet at CLARK'S HALL at 2707 East Tremont Ave., Friday evening at 8.30 P.M.

There is a lot to be done and the time is short.

FATHER EDWARD LODGE CURRAN says we are not beaten, they want us to think we are. We need help in getting signatures for Father Curran's NATIONAL POLL FOR PEACE at the Churches after Mass.

Next Sunday we will be at St. Helena's Church at Weyl's Hall on Westchester Avenue and Olmstead Avenue.

The foregoing shows the process of re-organization

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of the groups that heretofore constituted the Christian Front.

You will note that almost at every meeting there is always one or more clergymen present. The observation of the person attending these meetings is that this movement will spread and become a more powerful and more dangerous one than the late Christian Front.