

Coughlin

August 8, 1939.

The Honorable Alfred E. Smith
Empire State Building
New York, N.Y.

Dear Governor:

I am enclosing two reports on the Coughlin rally in Philadelphia on July 14, 1939, a copy of Father Coughlin's radio address on July 30, 1939 and a copy of Social Justice of July 31, 1939.

You will notice from the reports that Father Coughlin's speech, delivered to the meeting from the telephone, directly hooked him up with the Christian Front. He conferred his blessing upon the activities of the organization and designated Cassidy as the Eastern leader. The language of his radio address of July 30th is very significant. You will notice that the announcer stated that Father Coughlin "is encouraging the growth of the Christian Front." It is true that he states that it is not his organization, but I believe we can take that with a grain of salt. I am informed that Father Coughlin's followers in New York wear buttons containing a monogram made of the letters, "C.F." and they claim that the letters in reverse stand for Father Coughlin.

In Social Justice of July 31st, you will notice an article concerning the organization of the Christian Front movement, including the names of the ring leaders; there are several significant statements in the article. I call your attention to the fact that it is being organized along "militant lines". Further along in the article there is a statement that "sports" and "athletic prowess" are two of the mentioned objectives. My information is that the "sports" that are being encouraged in some of the Christian Front meetings are the use of fire arms. The members are urged to go out and practice on rifle ranges.

I think there is enough evidence in the foregoing to show that the Christian Front is a Coughlin organization.

The Honorable Alfred E. Smith

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An application was made by Lawrence Gilpatrick, of 165 East 88th Street, Manhattan, for a permit to hold a parade on August 19th, the route chosen was from Columbus Circle down Eighth Avenue to Union Square. At a public meeting Gilpatrick, who is active in the Christian Front and an ardent Coughlinite, announced that he would stage a demonstration late in the summer and would show the strength of the anti-Semitic movement in New York.

Gilpatrick lives at Kolping House, which, I understand, is run by the Catholic Kolping Society. I caused inquiries to be made and ascertained that he occupies room No. 406.

The application is, at present, pending at Police Headquarters, but I am informed that it will probably be granted. If Gilpatrick could be induced to withdraw his application for a permit to hold a parade it would be a happy solution to what might perhaps otherwise develop into a rather nasty situation. If I can be of any further assistance, please call upon me.

With best regards, I am

Cordially yours,

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Encs.