

# GENERAL JOHNSON CALLS REV. FATHER COUGHLIN "U. S. HITLER"

"You and Adolf as Alike as Two Peas," General Says in Chicago Attack on Radio—Likes "Forthright Long Bunk" Better

CHICAGO, Ills., April 2—General Hugh S. Johnson, sharp-tongued former chief of the N. R. A., has lashed out again at the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin and Senator Huey P. Long, accusing the Detroit radio priest of trying to be an American Hitler and ridiculing the Louisianan as a purveyor of "bunk".

"You have not chosen the swastika," Johnson said of Father Coughlin in pursuing his Hitler comparison. "You have a more sacred device . . . No swastika for your Nazis—but a cross".

Of the two men he has dubbed "pied pipers", Johnson said he "preferred" Senator Huey Long.

The general implied that with tonight's attack, delivered over a nationwide radio hookup, he was "through" with his end of the flaming three-cornered controversy.

Centering his fire on the priest, Johnson denounced his policies and ridiculed him personally. He indicated he believed Senator Long had been taken care of in a previous speech.

As if addressing Father Coughlin personally, Johnson said:

"Some one sent me a parallel of what both you and Adolf (Hitler) have proposed and preached and they are as alike as peas in a pod. As a foreign-born, you could not be a President, but you could be a Reichsfuehrer—just as the Austrian Adolf became dictator of Germany".

"Are you a jack-in-the-pulpit who jumps up one moment in the collar of Rome, ducks and reappears the next moment in the necktie?" Johnson inquired, after asserting:

## Assails "Nonsensical" Economics

"Photographer in the cassock of a Catholic priest while you said it, and announcing from the Shrine of the Little Flower that you were going after me the Sunday before you did it, you said over the radio, 'I address you neither as the spokesman of the Catholic Church nor as the representative of its Catholic following'".

From beginning to end, Johnson sought to pick to pieces the priest's Union for Social Justice—"For this he takes, from the pennies of the poor, much money never accurately reported nor accounted for".

The general condemned the money system embodied in the Nye-Sweeney bill advocated by the priest.

"If a nonsensical monstrosity ever flowed from the pan of man, this is it", Johnson said. "This plan, for which Father Coughlin has been taking tens of thousands of dollars from the poor, is no plan at all".

Johnson warmly defended Bernard Mannes Baruch, financier and friend whom Father Coughlin has referred to as 'Bernard Manasseh Baruch'. He denied the Bible contains any account of "Manasseh sawing Isiah in two"—as he said the priest retold the account.

## Defended Baruch as "Friend"

"There is no obscure Apocryphal story to that effect", said, "but consecrated priests do not preach from the Apocrypha. In the second place, there is no such person in America as Bernard Manasseh Baruch and well Father Coughlin knows it".

Then he added: "Bernard Baruch is not my lord and master. He is my friend of nearly twenty years. . . . He has done more for humanity and for this country than a thousand demagogues".

Father Coughlin's "running back to Roosevelt has left Long, who is attacking the President daily, out on a limb", said Johnson.

"If no more has been done than to pry those Pied Pipers apart, it is enough".

Branding the Catholic priest, as cowardly in his previous attacks, Johnson said:

"This guileless follower of the Gentle Master says that his confidants have heaped his desk with gossip about my private life, but that he dares not use it. Of course, by that remark alone, he did use it in the most cowardly way he could have used it. That was to be expected".

## Warns of Priest's "Fascism"

He accused the priest of nurturing a belief that the Catholic Church is "deliberately and subtly building in the United States a Fascist order in which the Church and State are one, to the exclusion of all other political and religious beliefs."

"Now I know that not one word of that is true, but as a lover of the Mother Church of all churches I want to say that that opinion is growing rapidly throughout this country, and it is growing because Father Coughlin makes it grow", he continued.

At the opening of his talk he said: "I must try, as far as I can in fifteen minutes, to answer their so-called arguments. Then I have another fifteen minutes for one Parthian quiver in answer to their shots at me, and I am done with this controversy".

Of the Union of Social Justice and the monetary program it supports in the Nye-Sweeney bill, Johnson said:

"Father Coughlin says that the Nye-Sweeney bill is his cure for the ills of our country suffers. It is for this that his Union of Social Justice lives. For this he takes, from the pennies of the poor, much money never accurately reported nor accounted for. If this bill is a blessing to them, it is important to know it. For if it is nothing or a curse, how can he escape Pollock's condemnation;

"He was a man Who stole the livery of the court of heaven

To serve the devil in. With one hand he put A penny in the urn of poverty

And, with the other, took a shilling out".

## Says Bill Beans "Funny Money"

Johnson ridiculed the proposed monetary system, which he said would set up a board of one politician from each of the forty eight states with unlimited power to order the printing of "funny money".

"The board calls in and destroys all existing money, giving magic money in exchange. It buys all Federal Reserve Banks with this new kind of money at a price fixed by the bill", he continued.

"All the banking business in the United States is put under its regulation. One hundred per cent of the money in all bank checking accounts is transferred to this board in funny money, and this board at once uses it to buy United States bonds. . . .

"Never between the beginning of time and the present mile post of eternity has the equal of this been seen.

"Well, at least the promise about reducing taxation looks bright. You don't need to tax because you pay the cost of government by printing more money from now on forever

Johnson accused Father Coughlin of taking advantage of distressed conditions to further his projects.

## Prefers Long's "Bunk"

"I prefer Huey Long's forthright bunk!" the general exploded.

That he considered his previous speech as effectively silencing Long, Johnson made it clear, saying:

"I think it did some good. Huey merely used the radio rumpus to spread his nonsense thicker. I heard that his comment was that he once sold patent medicine and that the trick is to get the crowds, if only by a dog fight, and then pass out the path-killer and rake in the dough. He did that. But he stopped his clowning in the Senate, and that was something gained".

In his defense of Baruch, Johnson said:

"His (Father Coughlin's) statement that the full name is not well known proves that he looked it up. Baruch's middle name is Mannes—a Southern surname. In order to inflame religious and racial passions by a fake picture of a Jew sawing a Catholic Irishman in two, he did not hesitate to pervert the Scriptures and misname the object of his hate".

Johnson denied that Baruch is or ever has been an international banker.

"Before Father Coughlin begins to talk about his head being severed and served like John the Baptist's on a

silver salver and his body like Isalah's sawn in twain for fighting for the distressed of this repression, let him expose himself to a little of what I went through in N. R. A. and let him offer to the poor such spoils of war, as 3,000,000 jobs instead of a lot of cheap, deceitful talk, and then perhaps we can speak together of martyrdom on even terms. I was no martyr. I had a lot of fun."

"As for the President", Johnson went on, "he has the brains and experience of the world at his command. There is no one so devoted and determined to use those powers first and foremost for the good of the suffering and oppressed among our people. There are no supermen, but he has as good a brain as anybody I know, and other qualities owned by few".

The general chided the priest of the Shrine of the Little Flower in Detroit about hiding behind his clerical position. Referring to one of Father Coughlin's previous addresses urging his followers to "march against the pagan god of gold", he asked:

"Father Coughlin, did you not threaten that if you could not attain your objects by exhortation that you swore to God you would accomplish them in another way? Do I understand that you now disclaim force? is there no canon of your office strictly forbidding you to participate in revolution or internal trouble?"

"Photographed in the cassock of a Catholic priest while you said it, and announcing from the Shrine of the Little Flower that you were going after me the Sunday before you did it, you said over the radio: 'I address you neither as the spokesman of the Catholic Church nor as the representative of its Catholic following'. Father, does 'forever' mean 'now and then'? Are you a jack-in-the-pulpit who jumps up one moment in the collar of Rome, ducks and reappears the next moment with a necktie?"

## Says Coughlin Misquoted Him

"I did not criticize this curate of charity because he is a priest. It did not object to his saying as a citizen any thought he holds. I criticized him because he uses his priesthood to fan the fires of political discontent and to create a threatened political bloc, with himself in leadership.

The general accused Father Coughlin of twisting his phrase in which he called the priest a Pied Piper who charmed both the rats and the innocent children of Hamelin to their doom.

"In reply he says that I called those sufferers rats", said Johnson.

"He said he forgave me because of his calling, and did it in the language of the crucified Christ — 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do'".

"I say that those perversions of my language are plain on the face of the record—that they are designed to deceive, inflame and incite his followers—understandable in the lowest type of gutter politician, but utterly inexcusable in a priest.

"I say that, standing alone, without another word from me, they prove to the hilt my assertion that he is degrading the Church and his holy office to the lowest form of political trickery, and as for the sacred words called down from the very branches of the Cross, I say it is black sacrilege that should shock any Christian of any creed of faith, because it was an attempt to hide his political peccations in the very blood of the Saviour and to arose for political purpose the most sacred emotions of humanity.

"It was worse than mere wanton sacrilege. For Father Coughlin did not forgive me any more than he wanted his followers not to think ill of me".

Of Baruch, Johnson said:

"He never floated a share of stock or took a deposit from anybody. He never engaged in international finance of any kind. On Thursday he knocked

a hostile Senate investigating committee off its feet by a complete disclosure of his entire financial dealings and connections and came forth as clean as a hound's tooth from any in-sinuation brought by either Father Coughlin or any other of the char-

acter assassins who yap at the flanks of honest men".

Johnson declared "the strategy of Father Coughlin is to inflame popular passions by a constant flicking with the whip of his tongue on backs already cut to ribbons by the lash of this depression".

"Having nothing whatever with which to relieve these sufferers, he makes them believe that he offers a magic salve by a mummerly of mur-

## I. O. D. E.



MRS. H. F. MACLEOD  
Who is to entertain the Executive Committee to a supper party at her home

## CALLS MRS. ROOSEVELT PONTIFICAL

BERKELEY, Cal., April 2—Miss Martha Ijams, University of California alumna of the class of 1901, carried her private war against the Roosevelt administration to the First Lady of the Land today. She called Mrs. Roosevelt a "type of cheap headline seeker."

Miss Ijams had plenty to say about the President's wife and she said it in the same outspoken manner in which she last week called Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins a "mere politician" in criticizing her selection as speaker at the university Charter Day exercises.

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, in the opinion of California's embattled alumna, not only is a headline seeker but also is presumptuous, little informed in the things about which she talks, and given to pontifical remarks which might come well from a President but not from a President's wife.

"Mrs. Roosevelt would do well to remember that the people didn't elect her President," said the tall, slender Miss Ijams in answering the nation's First Lady, who in a Washington press conference contended that Miss Ijams had not intended to snub Miss Perkins in refusing to be her hostess at a university luncheon.

"A snub is an effort of a person who feels superior to make some one else feel inferior," Mrs. Roosevelt said. "To do this it is necessary first to find some one who could be made to feel inferior. It is rare that a kindly person attempts to administer a snub."

Reporters hurried to Miss Ijams' home hefe with copies of Mrs. Roosevelt's definitions of a snub and her opinions of the alumna leader's intentions in the Perkins matter.

And Miss Ijams lost as little time in replying as acidly as she had flayed the university choice of the Cabinet Secretary in preference to Dr. Mary Woolley of Mount Holyoke College as the first woman to address the Charter Day gathering.

"I have nothing but contempt for her (Mrs. Roosevelt)" Miss Ijams said. "She is as presumptuous as usual in her assumption as to what I intended or did not intend relative to Miss Perkins."

"Why should I answer her? Nothing she ever says is worth answering. I have yet to read of her saying anything on any subject in which she was manifestly versed."

"The obvious fact to sensible people is that Mrs. Roosevelt is of the type of cheap headline seeker. Her closure of his entire financial dealings and connections and came forth as clean as a hound's tooth from any in-sinuation brought by either Father Coughlin or any other of the char-

acter assassins who yap at the flanks of honest men".

Johnson declared "the strategy of Father Coughlin is to inflame popular passions by a constant flicking with the whip of his tongue on backs already cut to ribbons by the lash of this depression".

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read of her election to the presidency."

The indignant Miss Ijams took another breath and launched an attack on Dr. Robert Gordon Sproul, president of the university, who took her to task for her "snub" on Miss Perkins.

"Thousands of alumni have no more respect for President Sproul for playing politics with the Perkins woman," she said. "He may rest assured that if the University is not cleaned up from within, it will be from without."

Without mentioning Miss Ijams directly, Dr. Sproul had spoken in the Daily Californian, student publication of "ill-advised zealots who lack balance wheels" and of alumni "so unbelievably boorish as to insult publicly a guest of the university on mere pride of personal opinion."

"He meant me all right," Miss Ijams said.

Frank Elck, the famous maestro and NBC music director, has a bicycle to thank for his professional debut—at one of the earliest ages on record. He had taken his bike to a repair shop and overheard the owner, who also ran the neighborhood nickelodeon, tell a customer that his pianist was ill. Frank applied for the job and got it. He was nine years old at the time.

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