

Charles E. Coughlin. "Persecution--Jewish and Christian." Nov. 20, 1938. In: Coughlin, Rev. Charles E. Am I an Anti-Semite? 9 Addresses on Various "ISMS" Answering the Question. Nov 6, 1938-Jan. 1, 1939. Detroit: Condon Printing Co, 1939.

Now that experience has proven that this effort to reconstruct society by means of Communism died a-borning—now that this same experience teaches us that from the birth-cradle of Communism there rose the stench of Nazi persecution; now that this Communism is permeating the entire world with the fumes of hate, of destruction and of irreligion, is it not time for those Jews and Christians who have escaped unscathed, to re-purify the atmosphere of the world, first, from Communism, lest by its continued presence, an unjust defense mechanism similar to Naziism will spring up to assail us?

Thus, it is my hope that the thousands of erudite, sincere Jews in this nation, together with all informed Christians, will recognize that as long as misguided Jews and gentiles both, and in such great numbers, continue to propagate the doctrines of anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-patriotism and anti-property, so long there always will exist some defensive mechanism against Communism. Today it is Naziism in Berlin. Tomorrow it will be some other "ism" in New York. But always it will be characterized by persecution.

It would be ignominious for Christians, at this hour, to cloak themselves in the garments of crass silence on the subject of Communism from which cesspool there originated Naziism. It would be ignoble for us not to raise our voice in defense of the 600,000 Jews subjected to so many persecutions by the Nazis, culminating in a fine of \$400-million.

However, it is my opinion that Naziism, the effect of Communism, cannot be liquidated in persecution complex until the religious Jews in high places — in synagogue, in finance, in radio and in press—attack the cause, attack forthright the errors and the spread of Communism, together with their co-nationals who support it.

My fellow citizens, I am not ignorant of Jewish history. I know its glories. I am acquainted with its glorious sons. I am aware of the keen intellectuality which has characterized its progress in commerce, in finance, in all the arts and sciences and, particularly, in the field of communications.

But I am also aware that every nation from time immemorial has lifted in its hand the lash of persecution to strike the back of Jewry. From Nineveh to Berlin; from ancient to modern

times, a constant moan of suffering has been raised from the Weeping Wall whose structure now has encompassed the world.

Portugal and Spain, France and Germany, England and the northern countries, Italy and Russia — all, in turn, have taken their stand at the pillar of persecution to wield the leaden lash about the shoulders of Jews—for what reason I need not detail at the moment. I will satisfy myself simply by drawing to your attention that, since the time of Christ, Jewish persecution only followed after Christians first were persecuted—persecuted either by exploiters within their own ranks, as in the Middle Ages, or by enemies from without, as in our own days—the days of Communism.

Many historians — in fact, the vast majority of them — maintain that the Jews were persecuted because of their social philosophy.

Parallel with their persecution has been the persecution of Christians — not for their social philosophy but for their religion.

Relative to Christian persecution in our own day — in this most enlightened day of the 20th century — witness the price that Christians have paid to uphold their religion against those who were anti-religious; to uphold their Christ against those who were anti-Christ; to uphold their patriotism and nationalism against those who were unpatriotic and international.

Between the years 1917 and 1938 more than (c.) 20-million Christians were murdered by the Communistic government in Russia.

Between these same years not \$400-million but (c.) \$40-billion—at a conservative estimate—of Christian property was appropriated by the Lenins and Trotskys, the Zinovieffs and the Kameneffs, the Litvinoffs and the Lapinskys — by the atheistic Jews and gentiles—both—of Russia.

Those were the desperate days when Christians were not expelled from their native land but were targets for the machine gun which beat out its tattoo against human hearts; incredible days when the altars of Christ were desecrated and the servants of Christ were massacred on ever-multiplying Calvarys.

Our President recently said: "Such news from any part of the world"—speaking of the persecution of the Jews in Germany—"Such news would inevitably produce a similar profound reaction among American people in every part of the nation." Alas! the news of Christian persecution came to our shores. Alas! the

press and the radio were almost silent. Alas! this present government made friends of these murderers by recognizing their flag!

Those were the days when there was silence in the press; days when there was silence on the radio because opposition to Communism was a "controversial" subject.

Turn the pages of history to recent years when the disciples of the Communists, atheists, internationalists and anti-Christians obtruded their philosophy into Mexico. Although the Christian world stood aghast while hundreds of millions of dollars of property, including ecclesiastical institutions, were confiscated, there was no condemnation officially uttered against a Cardenas, there was no recall of the Ambassador Josephus Daniels, there was no national protest on that occasion, there was no invitation extended to the persecuted Christians of Mexico to seek refuge in our land.

Almost contemporaneous with this Mexican madness, directed and operated by the commissars of the Kremlin, the world began to hear the story of disconsolate Spain—Spain that has become the battleground of Communism versus Christianity.

What is the record of that unfortunate country?

(c.) Seven hundred thousand men have fallen in battle. (c.) Three hundred thousand of the noblest non-combatants—men and women and children—have been butchered because of their religion.

The press of America succeeded in muzzling the truth about these horrors. No symposium of radio protest was organized to decry the Christian life-blood spilled upon the pavements of Barcelona—Barcelona with its population of over one million persons where, at this moment, there is left only one, small, semi-official chapel.

Nor was Claude Bowers, our Spanish Ambassador, called back to Washington to tell his story — the most ghastly story in all the pages of civilized or uncivilized history. Nor did the State Department forbid the (c.) 3,200 members of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, recruited from our Jewish and gentile Communist youth, from participating in dragging Christ down from His cross and slaughtering His innocent followers.

And most recently—just last week—there was no protest, no indignation aroused when Stalin, not satisfied with having paid for his Communism with the blood of (c.) 20-million martyrs—

instituted a new purge against all Christians and a handful of political Jews.

Why, then, was there this silence on the radio and in the press? Ask the gentlemen who control the three national radio chains; ask those who dominate the destinies of the financially inspired press—surely these Jewish gentlemen and others must have been ignorant of the facts or they would have had a symposium in those dark days—especially when students of history recognized that Naziism is only a defense mechanism against Communism and that persecution of the Christians always begets persecution of the Jews.

However, let the dead past bury its dead. Today — this is our day, Christians and Jews. We were not responsible for the atrocities of yesteryear. We will be responsible for the persecutions of future years.

My friends, unless all persecution is stopped; unless all the causes that lead to persecution are removed, this 20th Century, which will have become renowned in the chronicles of the world as the most blood-thirsty in all its existence, will continue to procreate scientists who, in turn, will beget new means for destruction; will generate radicals who will conceive new plans for revolution; and will multiply persecution, unless we have courage to remove the basic causes of exploitation which have been confiscating the properties of the poor.

Therefore, we are in hearty accord with our government which has seen fit to recall its Ambassador from Germany for the purpose of discussing the injustice of a government which has been challenged for persecuting the Jews.

If we are sincere we will recall all the ambassadors or ministers from the communistic countries—from Mexico City where a price is still placed on the head of priests; from Barcelona in whose suburbs (c.) 300 innocent nuns—the breath of life still in their bodies—were drenched with kerosene, and burned alive by official order of the Military Communists, from Moscow where our temples have been turned into museums and where our Christ has been crucified anew—yes, (c.) 20-million times anew.

By all means, let us have a convention of ambassadors.

By all means, let us have courage to compound our sympathy not only from the tears of Jews but also from the blood of Christians—(c.) 600,000 Jews whom no government official in Germany has yet sentenced to death, and (c.) 25-million Christians, at least, whose lives have been snuffed out, whose property has been con-