

November 9, 1938

Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President, United States of America,
The White House, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Recently I have read your letter of October 1 containing greetings and felicitations to the Eighth National Eucharistic Congress at New Orleans. You did a thorough job in stating your approval and approbation of that meeting. But your statements are very much out of place.

If Al Capone and others of his kind were to hold a convention of all racketeers, give it a religious and sanctimonious front, and use it to further their oppressive schemes against the people and to sustain and screen their unlawful operations, it would be an insult to the American people for the nation's chief executive to publicly endorse and applaud such convention. It would be putting the stamp of public approval on the acts of the nation's enemies, and would bring disgrace and contempt to the official so acting.

If the president of this great country were likewise to express, officially, compliments and good wishes to a Fascist organization maintaining and promoting totalitarian activities in the United States, such would well be considered by the American people as an act of bad faith, indicating disloyalty to their welfare.

Your letter to the Roman Catholic Hierarchy's Eucharistic Congress was sent to an organization that deserves the label of

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of honest, God-fearing American people.

George Seldes, in *The New Republic* of November 9, 1938, conservatively sets forth fifteen reasons why the Roman Catholic Hierarchy has married itself to Fascism and has become Fascism's advance agent and promoter. These reasons are as follows:

- (1) authoritarianism;
- (2) its attack on Communism;
- (3) recognition of Franco;
- (4) friendly relations with Mussolini;
- (5) the Pope's continued appeal to the German concordat;
- (6) the Vatican's satisfaction with Corporate Portugal and Austria;
- (7) diplomatic relations with dictators;
- (8) support for the Ethiopian invasion;
- (9) conspiracy to overthrow the Spanish government and support the Italian, Nazi and Moorish invasion;
- (10) the aid to Hitler by Cardinal Innitzer;
- (11) Father Coughlin's Fascist activities;
- (12) Catholic Church aid to Duplessis' Canadian semi-Fascism;

(13) Catholic organizations' support of corrupt politicians like Mayor Hague;

(14) the attack on liberal and progressive figures by organizations like the Catholic Truth Society;

(15) antagonism to labor.

Is it not exceedingly inconsistent for you, Mr. President, to send cordial good wishes, in the name of democracy, to a national conference of this Fascist organization?

On October 2, 1938, Judge J. F. Rutherford, in an address entitled "Fascism or Freedom" (a copy of which is enclosed), broadcast to the people of this continent a damning list of Catholic-Fascist acts against democracy and freedom in this country and Canada. From that address I quote the following:

On September 11 last I delivered an address at London, which was broadcast to many countries. More than 100 radio stations in America broadcast that speech "Face the Facts". To prevent the people from hearing the facts Catholic Action flooded many radio stations with threatening letters, and some stations, because of fear, yielded to their demands. In many places in the United States, Christians rented public halls, installed wireless equipment, and there peaceably assembled to hear the speech and to worship God in spirit and in truth. Catholic Action tried to prevent such assemblies, and succeeded in a few instances.

At Chicago, where most of the public officials are Catholic and dominated by a cardinal, the Navy Pier auditorium was leased for the convention of Jehovah's witnesses, and everything was in readiness, when Cardinal Mundelein's representative demanded the cancellation of the lease and the prevention of this Christian assembly. Public officials yielded to that demand.

At Rochester, New York, Commissioner McFarlin rented to Jehovah's witnesses the city hall for their convention. Two days before the convention opened the Catholic priest, John Randall, acting under command of the bishop, demanded that the city cancel the lease, shut out Jehovah's witnesses, and prevent their peaceable assembly, and the cancellation was made, and for one day this hall was closed against that Christian body. Then on application Justice Voorhis issued an Order of Court requiring the hall to be opened, and it was done.

At Ottawa, Canada, the Coliseum was engaged for this convention of Christians. Ten days later notice was served on Jehovah's witnesses by the Board of Control that the use of the Coliseum "is granted subject to there being no utterances made . . . against any church or religious denomination or those connected with churches or religious denominations".

At Little Rock, Arkansas, the city council, at the instance of the Catholic bishop Morris and his organization of Knights of Columbus, prevented the peaceable assembly of Jehovah's witnesses in the public park for worship and to listen to the London lecture.

At Colorado Springs the Catholic clergy and other politicians signed a petition, falsely charging "that Rutherford is against Christianity and all it stands for, and the American flag, and the ideals it stands for", and thereby induced the radio station to cancel its broadcast contract and the press to publish the libelous statement.

Many other radio stations in the chain were bullied and threatened. As to the effect thereof I quote a letter of a radio manager, which is a sample of many others, addressed to the Watch Tower agency: "We regret to advise that due to the prevalence of Catholicism in this territory we must refrain from taking the broadcast." Many radio stations were threatened by Catholic priests if they broadcast the lecture.

At New Orleans the Coliseum arena was leased for the assembly in convention of these Christian people to worship God and to hear the London speech. At the instance of the Catholic Hierarchy the doors of the Arena were locked and the literature of Jehovah's witnesses withheld from them and they were prevented from assembling. Another hall was then engaged, and Catholic Action succeeded in having that hall closed to Jehovah's witnesses. A third hall was taken, and while a local speaker was delivering a Bible lecture the audience was intimidated by a squad of police under the command of one McNamara. The fourth hall was rented, and a Catholic police squad stopped the installation of telephone wires in that building, and thus prevented the assembly of Jehovah's witnesses there to receive the London speech. Then the Jockey Club, outside the city limits, was leased for the peaceable assembly and worship by these Christians. Under pressure from the Catholic Hierarchy the parish sheriff prevented the installation of the telephone wires and the use of that place of assembly. Then, as a last resort, a private open-air lot was taken, and there on Sunday, September the 11th, a body of Christian people assembled peaceably and to worship God and to hear the London address. Electrical equipment had been installed. A squad of police, under command of McNamara, was on the ground before the audience arrived. McNamara, under the direction of the Catholic Hierarchy, stepped forward and excitedly cried out to the audience assembled: "Stand back"; and then, turning to his police squad, he gave this command: "Men, when the lecture starts stop it, even if you have to break the electrical equipment; and the first man who interferes, shoot to kill." When the lecture began at London, McNamara himself cut the telephone wires, disabled the electrical equipment, and, while he was doing so, the police squad stood with their hands on their guns, and thus the people again were forcibly prevented to peaceably assemble, freely worship and exercise freedom of speech. Immediately following this highhanded and unlawful action the Catholic newspaper known as *Catholic Action of the South*, edited by the "Right Reverend" Wynhoven, published the following: "It is indeed a source of deep gratification that notwithstanding the persistent efforts of the witnesses of Jehovah, their three-day convention in New Orleans was frustrated. . . . Practically every large hall in the city was denied them. . . . The chief of police's office and the sheriff of Jefferson Parish unhesitatingly stepped in to stop effectively this insult to New Orleans." The Federal Court is preventing a repetition today of such unlawful acts, but Wynhoven won't publish that.

The proof is therefore conclusive that the Catholic Hierarchy was back of the unlawful action in breaking up a peaceable assembly of Christians gathered together for worship of Almighty God. This is further and conclusive proof that the Hierarchy is against God and against His kingdom under Christ and is working in league with Fascism to destroy the liberties of the people. The Hierarchy has bullied and bluffed and threatened and put fear into the public press and the owners of many radio stations, to prevent the people from hearing the truth. Honest, sincere Catholics do not endorse such highhanded and unlawful action, and they, seeing that the Hierarchy has turned the organization into a political machine and is robbing the people and using the money to destroy their liberties, these honest Catholics are forsaking

the Hierarchy and turning themselves to God and to His kingdom. This action of honest Catholics greatly angers the Hierarchy. And their priests and press howl.

As counsel for Jehovah's witnesses I have had occasion to see at first hand and come in contact with Fascist "Catholic Action" machinery in America.

Jehovah's witnesses have flooded the land with printed proofs that the Roman Catholic Hierarchy carries on a racket by frightening people into paying sums totaling millions, for "protection" and "release" from a mythical place of future punishment labeled "purgatory". The Hierarchy makes no effort to disprove the charges. Instead, it vigorously pushes archaic and medieval methods of gagging upright, fearless critics by use of the strong arm of the "law". It has established a modern-day inquisition which, during the past three years, has resulted in the arrest and charging with crime of more than two thousand Christian men, women and children, whose only "offense" has been that of disseminating Bible truths that shock the susceptibilities of that oppressive organization's hypocritical leaders. Those leaders have wrongfully and wickedly induced public officials to misapply some twenty-odd varieties of statutes and ordinances to retard, hinder or even destroy entirely the lawful activities of those upright, God-fearing men and women.

In addition, there has been vilest abuse, mob action, cruel and inhuman treatment of innocent persons, and a train of other brutal "Catholic Action" which is a disgrace to any nation and the foulest stench in this "sweet land of liberty".

The cringing subserviency of the courts to the Hierarchy's inquisition is a scandal of the first magnitude. In Jersey City, autocratically ruled by Mayor Frank Hague, vice-chairman of your own political party, during the trial of sixteen of Jehovah's witnesses the judge, Anthony Botti, a Roman Catholic, made this statement in open court:

The Constitution doesn't apply here. If you want to preach the gospel, preach it somewhere else. This city is 75 percent to 80 percent Catholic.

In Irvington, New Jersey, Roman Catholic Judge Thomas J. Holleran made the following statement:

I will stab you [Jehovah's witnesses] in the back every time I get a chance.

In Hoboken, New Jersey, another Roman Catholic judge, Frank Romano, publicly stated to Jehovah's witnesses:

Why don't you people stay away from here? You know we don't want you around. We have told Jehovah's witnesses to keep out of town.

This same Roman Catholic judge of Hoboken put the finishing touches on a wicked conspiracy against one of Jehovah's witnesses with a ninety-day sentence in the Hudson County Penitentiary on the charge of use of abusive language to a woman whom the defendant had

never seen nor met prior to his arrest. New Jersey Supreme Court justices, dominated by the Hague-Catholic machine, refused any redress in this case in the way of certiorari or appeal.

Thomas F. Meaney, Roman Catholic judge of the Court of Common Pleas, of Jersey City, has been publicly accused of deliberately withholding decisions involving the cases of Jehovah's witnesses. He hasn't denied the charge.

Hostility, prejudice and lawlessness on the part of the judiciary have been further shown in acts such as the following:

- Making unusual and exorbitant bail restrictions especially for Jehovah's witnesses.

- Evasion on the part of officials, thus making impossible the arranging of bail.

- Suppression of trial records.

- Jailing of defendants because of their refusal to take the stand in behalf of the prosecution.

- Needless postponement of trials, subjecting defendants to great inconvenience and much unnecessary expense.

- Refusal to consider evidence or law in behalf of defendants, and in place thereof a blind and senseless penalizing of innocent people.

This Fascist Catholic machine has threatened the press of the country and cowed it into complete subjection. It now reaches out with an organized attempt to censor free speech over the radio, through coercing, bulldozing and browbeating station owners and managers into refusal of facilities for broadcasting material offensive to the Hierarchy. High-pressure campaigns are organized by Catholic bishops, priests and editors; the offending broadcasting station is deluged with scurrilous epistles, and its sponsors of advertising programs are informed in no uncertain terms that if they do not withdraw their patronage from the offending station they will suffer loss of Catholic trade.

A sample of this kind of censorship is given in the case of Station WORL, Boston, Mass. A contract was made with that station for broadcasting of the speech "Fascism or Freedom", to be given by Judge Rutherford on October 2 last. On that day, "Catholic Action" under the direction of a priest named Gabriel Gorman, stormed the station with protests, demands and threats of dire punishment. The station manager succumbed and breached the contract when halfway through the broadcast. Simultaneously, fifty-eight other stations, wire-connected in a coast-to-coast independent chain, broadcast the same speech in its entirety without yielding to similar un-American "Catholic Action" attempts to prevent the broadcast. In all parts of the United States this peculiarly Catholic form of suppression of free speech is now in operation, constituting a censorship of radio more complete and

deadly than if imposed by governmental action.

These facts constitute but a bare outline of some of the overt acts of the Fascist Catholic machine in carrying forward its program of suppression of the American people's liberties.

Much of this information has been heretofore presented to you. Petitions with millions of signatures, requesting action by you and by the Congress and by the Federal Communications Commission, have been presented at Washington during the past four years. There has been no action from your office or from the national Congress or from the Federal Communications Commission.

The La Follette Civil Liberties Committee of the United States Senate has been informed similarly, but it has taken no action.

It seems that the chief officials of the nation are more interested in sustaining and protecting this powerful religio-political organization that functions out of Vatican City than in upholding the American people's rights.

In your letter to the Hierarchy's Eucharistic Congress you stated:

We still remain true to the faith of our fathers who established religious liberty when the nation began.

When you stand mute while the Roman Catholic Hierarchy throws two thousand Christian people into jail; censors newspapers and radio; shackles the courts, and stirs up mob action to stop the mouths of honest critics, it cannot be truthfully said that we "still remain true to the faith of our fathers who established religious liberty". It cannot be truthfully said that there is freedom of worship in the United States when Jehovah's witnesses are continually jailed because they circulate Bible truths offensive to the same gang of aliens from whose oppressive machinations the American founding fathers fled to the wilds of what is now America.

Your encomiums on democracy and religious liberty become as "sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal" in the face of such medieval atrocities.

The New York *Sun* of March 8, 1934, told of a proposed resumption of "diplomatic relations" between this country and the ruling body of the Roman Catholic Church, stating that

a definite agreement had been reached by President Roosevelt and the Vatican that diplomatic relations shall be established between the United States and the Holy See as soon as public opinion can be brought around to the idea.

Press reports of the last few days tell of the visit of Cardinal Mundelein to you while on his way to call on the pope. They tell of high and extraordinary honors bestowed on that cardinal by the American embassy at Rome under your direction. They report further that the matter of resumption of "diplomatic relations" is to be discussed by that 'prince of the church' and the pope, all of which is supposed to be in accordance with your wishes and

instructions. So it appears that you consider that 'public opinion has now been brought around to the idea' and that America may be "taken in" by the "Holy See".

These facts, Mr. President, do not speak creditably of your administration. You have persuaded millions of the American people to believe that you are trying to better their condition. You have told them you would 'drive the money changers out of the temple', and have oft proclaimed your devotion to civic liberties. Nevertheless you condone and give assent to ruthless trampling down of freedom of worship, freedom of speech, freedom of press and freedom of assembly, by the Roman Catholic Hierarchy. You consort with its "princes" and other mighty leaders of this Fascist gang, and—if reports are true—you now aid them in their well-defined purpose to capture and control America.

Doesn't your action constitute a real betrayal of the vital interests of the American people?

Can you co-operate with and aid this advance agent of Fascism without violating your solemn oath of office, to support the fundamental rights of *all* people of the United States—including the very large majority of NON-CATHOLICS as well as the MINORITY of Catholics and the even smaller minority of so-called "practical" Catholics whom the Hierarchy's leaders have succeeded in arousing and uniting to participate in "Catholic Action"?

These questions require your most serious consideration.

You close your letter with the following statement:

May your prayers hasten the day when both men and nations will bring their lives into conformity with the teachings of Him who is the Way, the Light and the Truth.

It's bad enough to victimize the people into believing you are protecting their liberties. It is worse to consort with and protect the Hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church as it feverishly pushes to completion its totalitarian program for the United States. But to express the hope that the prayers of this enemy of JEHOVAH GOD and of His King Christ Jesus may hasten the ushering in of righteousness is AN INSULT TO THE MOST HIGH GOD.

Concerning religious racketeers of His day, Jesus said that upon their heads would come the righteous blood shed in the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias.—Matthew 23:34-36.

How can you, Mr. President, dodge responsibility for a large and well-defined part in aiding, abetting and shielding these many unrighteous and detestable acts of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy against God-fearing persons during your administration?

Respectfully yours,

O. R. MOYLE

December 1, 1938

Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President, United States of America,
The White House, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This is a supplement to my letter to you of November 9. You have recently expressed your indignation at the treatment of Jews by the Nazi government of Germany. Your remarks were timely and undoubtedly will bring beneficial results.

You should not overlook the atrocities committed by the Hitler government on Jehovah's witnesses. When Hitler came into power the Catholic episcopate of Germany requested Hitler to suppress the "Earnest Bible Students" (Jehovah's witnesses). Hitler responded as follows:

These so-called "Earnest Bible Students" are troublemakers; they disturb the harmonious life amongst the Germans; I consider them quacks; I do not tolerate that the German Catholics be besmirched in such a manner by this American "Judge" Ruther-

ford; I dissolve the "Earnest Bible Students" in Germany; their property I dedicate to the people's welfare; I will have all their literature confiscated.

This decree was followed up by the throwing of thousands of Jehovah's witnesses into concentration camps. Many have been killed and the most fiendish means of torturing has been applied to others. Their property has been confiscated and over fifty thousand volumes of their books burned. Why has this been done? Merely because they worship God as commanded in the Scriptures, and dared to have in their possession Bibles and literature explaining the Bible.

Should you desire detailed evidence of the cruel acts of this modern Inquisition it will be furnished to you.

You have oft expressed your firm belief in freedom of worship. Why not publicly protest against this vicious attack on Christians and on Christianity?

Yours very truly,

O. R. MOYLE.