Often repeated in the press is this charge: that the Nationalists (or rightists) in Spain are fighting a rightfully-constituted government. Mr. William V. Montavon, director of the legal department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, explained, in a recent radio broadcast, how this "rightfully" constituted government by the leftists (or Popular Front) came about:

(1). "In the 1934 election entire leftist parties, among them those whose members had been most vociferous in the Constitutional Assembly, disappeared, were wiped out by an aroused electorate. The rightists won that election and organized the parliament.

"The leftists could not take defeat. They resorted to turmoil, revolutionary general strikes, and finally open rebellion against the legally constituted government of the Republic. Their rebellion had no widespread support and was quickly suppressed. Disorders continued. The turmoil became such that parliament could not function. The rightists were never permitted to preside over the cabinet. The parliament was recessed and new elections called.

"The campaign preceding the 1936 election was bitter. The independent and opposition press was subjected to great restrictions. Free use of radio was not permitted. The vote was heavy. Official returns showed a popular vote favoring rightist candidates...

"The leftists refused to accept defeat. They seized the government by prevailing on President Alcala Zamora to accept the resignation of the cabinet and designate their man to organize the new government. This done they were able to manipulate election returns and give themselves an effective majority in the parliament.

"The first act of the Popular Front was to place all Spain under martial law. Doing this the Popular Front established for the record that its own accession to office produced a national emergency so serious that constitutional liberties and guarantees had to be suspended.

"Under the Constitution martial law may be imposed only for thirty day periods. Month after month the Popular Front came before parliament seeking an extension of its powers. (deceased) 2nd anniv. of father of John Sullivan (Mor.); aunt of John Toomey (Arlin); friend of Roland O'Shea; friend of Bill O'Toole (C.R.), III, Ben Saali (Fr.); Bill Sharp, appendectomy, (Alum.); Mrs. Paradise; the Degman family; William Meyer (Fr.).

(2). Another charge frequently made is this: that the Church plunged Spain into a conflict because she objects to the separation of Church from State. And this is Mr. Montavon's answer: "In Spain religious denominations and congregations are treated as voluntary associations, but unlike other voluntary corporations, they are subject to special laws. That is not separation. That is subsection, absolute subsection under a legal regime of exception...If unhappy Spain today is the battlefield for a little world war, responsibility lies not primarily on the Catholic people of Spain. Read the minutes of the Seventh World Congress of the Communist International. It reveals where lies the major responsibility."