

F.B.I. Seizes 18, Arsenal Russia Accuses Nordics

in Revolt Plot; of Covert War

Post
1/15/40

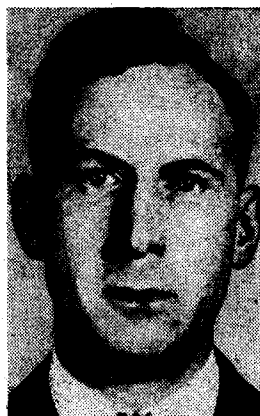
Called Leaders
Of Christian Front

12 in Congress
Marked for
Death, Says
Hoover

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JOHN F. CASSIDY



Associated Press WIREPHOTOS
WILLIAM G. BISHOP

over

**Bombings, Seizure
Of Utilities Planned
By Christian Front,
U. S. Announces**

By the Associated Press

New York, Jan. 14.—A terroristic gun and bomb plot to overthrow the United States Government, assassinate a dozen Congressmen and seize the strongholds of the Army was charged tonight after 18 members of the "Christian Front" were arrested and accused of conspiracy to create a revolution.

The Nation's vital works of industry and transportation were also marked for demolition in the alleged plot, it was announced by J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI.

The 18 men, including New York National Guardsmen and one member each from the Naval and Marine Reserves, were accused by Hoover of conspiring to bomb and shoot their way to power and set up a government like Hitler's dictatorship over Nazi Germany.

Arsenal Unearthed
A small arsenal was unearthed in New York City by FBI agents, Hoover said, including bombs, ammunition, rifles and the makings for explosives in various stages of completion.

(Stephen Birmingham, an investigator for the Dies committee investigating un-American activities, said the leaders of the "Christian Front" involved here have claimed Father Charles Coughlin, Michigan radio priest, "as a leader of their group but Father Coughlin has repeatedly denied that he is connected with this Christian Front.")

Hoover said the fantastic plot included plans to revolt against the Government with arms stolen from the arsenals of the Army.

One Called Bund Member

Twelve Congressmen were "marked for death," he said, as an object lesson to those who had voted for repeal of the arms embargo.

The FBI said, however, that it was unable to identify any of the 12 "nominated for extinction."

On the list marked for seizure or destruction were bridges, armories, postoffices and Federal Reserve Banks, railroads and communication lines of all kinds.

The plot, Hoover said, was also aimed against Jews generally.

One of those under arrest was described as a member of the German-American Bund, whose "Fuehrer," Fritz Kuhn, is serving a term in Sing Sing prison for stealing Bund funds.

Nazi-Like Salute Charged

Contents of the arsenal discovered in a six-month investigation ordered by Attorney General Frank Murphy and conducted by the FBI included rifles and pistols, thousands of rounds of ammunition and powder and chemicals used in making bombs. It also contained one long sword.

Through the use of cameras equipped with telescopic lenses, the FBI agents made records of their spying on various drills in the use of firearms, in leadership and in maneuvers, at Narrowsburg, N. Y., 100 miles upstate.

They discovered also, Hoover said, that the Front's leader, answered to See PLOT, Page 4, Column 1.

18 Prisoners, Arms Seized In Revolt Plot

U. S. Charges Group
Planned Bombings,
Sought Dictatorship

PLOT, from Page 1.

the name of "Führer" and the half-raised arm salute of the Nazis.

Hoover said the 18 taken into custody had functioned as a "sports club" which he described as a "secret organization which specialized in training men for the projected revolution and stealing arms from Government defense forces."

Utilities Would Be Taken

"The club planned among its early acts of terror, beginning sometime after the training period of January 20, to bring about a complete eradication of all Jews, seize all public utilities, including power, water, railroads and all forms of transportation," Hoover said.

The FBI chief said the conspiracy also called for the bombing of the Jewish Daily Forward, a newspaper, and seizure of the customs house and main postoffice in New York City.

Hoover said the two principal leaders among those under arrest were John F. Cassidy, leader of the Christian Front and William Gerald Bishop, leader of the Sports Club which acted as a secret entity behind the Front.

Plot 6 Months Old, He Says

He added that the alleged conspiracy was at least 6 months old. Hoover said the investigation was still in progress, with a special search for additional caches of armament for Christian Front armies elsewhere.

He declined to discuss the possibility of the front's connection with foreign agencies or any alliances with other groups in the United States.

Police To Be Bombed

Hoover said the "sports club" had surveyed the offices of the American League for Democracy in New York City and had laid down plans for bombing it.

"They also plotted to bomb the police department and discussed 'knocking off' 12 Congressmen who they said 'should be taught a lesson for voting for the repeal of the embargo act,' the FBI leader said.

'Dictatorship Planned'

"The government they proposed setting up they referred to as 'a dictatorship similar to Hitler's.' They met secretly at various members' homes. One member at least was a member of the German-American Bund and many are connected with the United States reserve forces," he added.

Hoover declared there were "thousands of members" of the Christian Front, but he said he would not estimate the exact number or the number of those engaged in the revolutionary conspiracy pending the completion of a Nation-wide investigation.

Asked whether there was a direct connection between the Christian Front itself and the conspiracy, Hoover said:

"I don't care to comment on that. You may draw your own conclusions."

National Probe Is On

Hoover also declined to comment on aspects of the alleged conspiracies in other cities throughout the country, but he indicated a far-flung investigation was already well under way.

The 18 were arrested on complaints filed in the Eastern Federal District (Brooklyn) of New York under a charge of seditious conspiracy in violation of section 6, title 18, of the United States Code, which provides a maximum penalty on conviction of a \$5,000 fine or six years in prison, or both.

Specifically, they were charged with "conspiring to overthrow, put down and destroy by force the Government of the United States and oppose by force the authority thereof; also to seize, take and possess property of the United States."

The defendants, all of whom live in New York, were described as:

Michael Joseph Byrne, 32, born in Ireland, nine years a naturalized citizen, line-man for the New York Telephone Co., corporal in the New York National Guard.

William Gerald Bishop, 39, born in Vienna, citizenship unknown, unemployed writer, linguist speaking English, French, German, Arabic and Portuguese; deported from Belgium and Great Britain three times.

Maeklin Boettger, 32, born in Pittsburgh, Pa.; salesman, 12 years' service in the New York National Guard.

Andrew Buckley, 34, born in Ireland, naturalized in 1938, a tailor, a sergeant and qualified gunner in Company E, 165th Infantry, New York National Guard.

William Henry Bushnell, Jr., 18, student.

Claus Gunther Ernecke, 34, born in Berlin, filed first citizenship papers, salesman for International Correspondence School, enlisted in 1936 in the U. S. Cavalry but was discharged, member of the German-American Bund.

John Franklin Cook, 19, citizenship unknown, unemployed, corporal in U. S. Marine Corps Reserve.

John A. Graf, 23, born in Brooklyn, clerk.

Leroy Keesan, 37, born in Chicago, a baker, seaman in U. S. Naval Reserve.

George Kelly, 24, citizenship unknown.

Frank Michael Malone, 35, born in Brooklyn, department store employe.

John J. Froug, Jr., 29, born in New York, Postal Telegraph Co. clerk, captain in 165th Infantry, New York National Guard.

John M. Ryan, 38, born in New York, sergeant in New York National Guard.

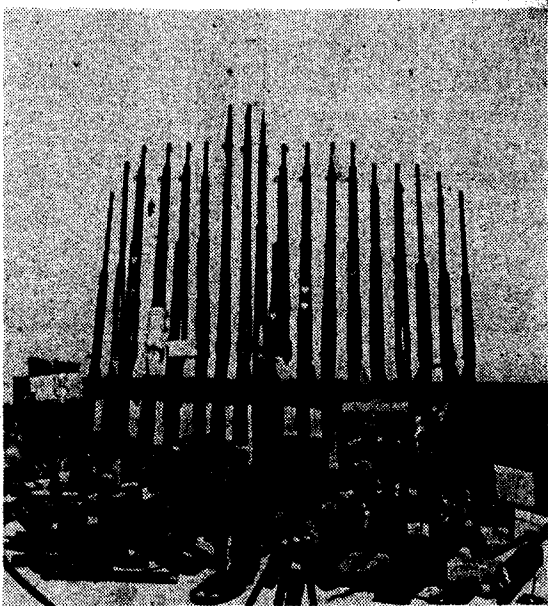
John Albert Viebrock, 36, born in Brooklyn, elevator mechanic.

Michael Vill, 35, born in Germany, naturalized citizen, chauffeur.

Edward Walsh, 23, citizenship unknown, unemployed.

Alfred J. Quinlan, 27, citizenship unknown, member of the New York National Guard.

FBI Charges These Men Plotted Revolution in U. S.



Associated Press WIREPHOTOS

The upper picture showing five men with rifles was released by J. Edgar Hoover, F. B. I. chief, last night when he announced the arrest of 18 members of the "Christian Front" on charges of conspiracy to incite revolt and set up a dictatorship. Hoover said the picture was seized in a New York raid and shows (from left) Michael Vill, Maeklin Boettger, Francis Michael Joseph Malone, John Albert Viebrock and Johnny Graf. The lower picture of a "small arsenal" also was released by Hoover, who announced confiscation of guns and ammunition.