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17 Held in \$850,000 Bail on Charges of Plotting Against U. S.

Four Groups Press Probes; Other Alleged Members Of Syndicate Sought

By the Associated Press.
NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—A woe-be-gone group of 17 men accused of plotting to overthrow the United States Government fretted in jail today, unable to raise \$50,000 bail each, as Federal agents sought other alleged conspirators of the "revolutionary" syndicate.

While Federal, State, National Guard and New York City Police authorities pressed investigations of the fantastic scheme to launch an anti-Semitic pogrom, assassinate a dozen members of Congress and set up a Hitleresque dictatorship in this country, jail attendants described the 17 prisoners as greatly subdued.

All pleaded innocent yesterday when they were arraigned on a charge of seditious conspiracy, mumbling their pleas with the exception of William G. Bishop, alleged ring leader, who shouted in a voice heard outside the courtroom:
"Not guilty!"

Expresses Bewilderment.

One of the group, George Kelly, 24, a hotel worker, expressed bewilderment at the G-men's charges, complaining:

"I don't know whether I'm against communism or not. I don't know what it's all about."

J. Edgar Hoover, F. B. I. chief, said he had evidence to support every jot of the charge that a conspiracy was aimed at establishing a dictatorship.

"It took only 23 men to overthrow Russia," Mr. Hoover reminded skeptics.

Harsher Penalty Asked.

Meanwhile Representative Emanuel Celler, Democrat, of New York demanded legislation to stiffen the penalty for peacetime sedition—now six years in prison and \$5,000 fine. Mayor La Guardia of New York stuck to his scolding comment:

"I don't think the United States Government is in much danger from 17 guys like these."

In Boston police swung into action with a raid on New England Front headquarters, seizing membership cards and pamphlets which Police Supt. Edward W. Fallon described as "evidence that the group was anti-Semitic."



NEW YORK.—ARRAIGNED IN TERRORIST PLOT—Here are 16 of the 17 men who were arraigned on charges of plotting to overthrow the Government. They are: 1, Michael Joseph Belrne; 2, John T. Prout, jr.; 3, George Kelly; 4, Andrew Buckley; 5, Macklin Boettger; 6, Alfred J. Quinlan; 7, John Francis Cassidy; 8, John Albert Viebrock; 9, Claus G. Erneck; 10, William Bushnell, jr.; 11, W. G. Bishop; 12, Michael VIII; 13, Francis Malone; 14, Edward L. Walsh; 15, John F. T. Cook; 16, Leroy J. Keegan.
—A. P. Wirephoto.