

# F. B. I. TO SEIZE MORE IN U. S.

## 'Christian Front' Prisoners Held In \$50,000

### Arsenals Taken; Attempt to Overthrow Government Charged

By the Associated Press.  
NEW YORK, Jan. 15.—Federal officials today declared the arrest of 17 men and the seizure of a small arsenal had merely "scratched the surface" of a terrorist plot to overthrow the United States Government.

"More arrests" were predicted by United States Attorney Harold M. Kennedy, who said that F. B. I. agents under J. Edgar Hoover were "virtually forced" to act now because their investigations indicated a series of bombing outrages was imminent.

Mr. Kennedy disclosed that F. B. I. agents closed in on the suspects Saturday night because they had received information of definite instructions issued to one of the plotters to set off a bomb in a public place.

The plot, he said, included plans to blow up buildings, raid utility plants and Government offices, "liquidate" Jews, assassinate a dozen unidentified members of Congress and set up a dictatorship.

Mr. Kennedy said he regretted it had been necessary to close in on the men at this time, but added that the type of mind which would conceive so grotesque an outrage might cause great damage and bloodshed.

Only Scratched Surface.  
"We expect more arrests," said Mr. Kennedy. "We have merely scratched the surface in making arrests thus far."

He said his investigators and F. B. I. agents were checking to determine whether the alleged plotters had been sending ammunition and arms to the outlawed Irish Republican Army.

Mr. Hoover, in announcing disruption of the alleged plot, said those in custody were members of an inner circle of the Christian Front, an anti-Semitic organization. More than half the suspects, he said, served in the active or reserve branches of the armed forces of the United States or were members of the New York National Guard.

One official was asked if efforts were being made to learn whether the group had influential or moneyed backers. He replied: "That would be the logical conclusion."

Eighteen men were taken into custody in the raids, but one of them was released a few hours later when it was discovered that he was a victim of "mistaken identity."

Held in \$50,000 Bond.  
Arraigned before Federal Judge Grover Moscowitz in Brooklyn, the men pleaded innocent and were held in \$50,000 bail each for hearing February 5.

They were charged specifically 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."

One of the 17, Macklin Boettger, 32, did not appear and was to be arraigned later.

The courtroom was filled with friends and relatives of the men. Several women wept as the prisoners were led away.

In Albany Gov. Herbert H. Lehman said he would order an immediate investigation of any connection between the Christian Front and the personnel of the National Guard.

Maj. Gen. William N. Haskell, commander of the New York National Guard, said that any Guardsman who stole rifles or ammunition from a State armory was subject to Federal court-martial. The usual procedure, he added, is for each regiment to make its own investigation.

Celler Asks Stiffer Penalty.  
Representative Emanuel Celler, Democrat, of New York said he was one of the members of Congress marked for assassination and declared that as ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee he would recommend legislation to increase the penalty for sedition.

"The penalty now seems to me to be inadequate in this case in view

## F. B. I.

(Continued From First Page.)

of the plans these men had," Mr. Celler said.

F. B. I. agents were searching in many localities for caches of arms such as the "small arsenal" they found in New York City in the course of a continuing six-month investigation of the alleged conspirators.

The day for striking against the Government, Mr. Hoover said, was to be soon after a final drill in bombing and firing which had been set for January 20—next Saturday.

"The group depended," Mr. Hoover said, "upon terrorism and ultimate demoralization of communities to attain their objective. First of all they aimed at terrorization of Jews—all Jews. At the same time, according to their plans, they were to seize communications, transportation systems, customs and post offices."

### Cassidy Called Fuehrer.

He said the leaders of the alleged conspiracy were John F. Cassidy, Brooklyn head of the Christian Front, and William Gerald Bishop, leader of a "sports club," known as the "Country Gentlemen," secretly operating behind the front.

Cassidy, he said, was saluted Nazi-wise and addressed by the followers as "Fuehrer."

Mr. Hoover disclosed that much of the evidence against the alleged conspiracy was obtained with long-range cameras operated by F. B. I. agents from vantage points around the training camp of the organization at Narrowsburg, about 100 miles upstate in New York.

There, he said, the men were drilled in the use of arms and the making of bombs.

The "small arsenal" seized during the course of the investigation, ordered last August by Attorney General Frank Murphy, the new Supreme Court appointee, contained thousands of rounds of ammunition, 15 partly completed bombs, power, 17 rifles, an automatic pistol, a shotgun—and a long sword.

Mr. Hoover declined to say whether the alleged plot had any connection with any "Christian Front" organization itself, or with other organizations in this or other countries.

Cassidy has professed himself to be a follower of principles outlined by the Rev. Charles Coughlin, but the Michigan radio priest last night, "roundly disavowed" any connection with the "Christian Front" whose members are under arrest.

Father Coughlin said he had advocated a "real Christian Front to oppose these fakers."

The Royal Oak priest charged that "this so-called Christian Front" was of Communist, or Bundist, origin organized "along their policies of boring from within to embarrass the real Christians of this Nation."

### Returned Money, Coughlin Says.

"I certainly hope," he said, "that Mr. Hoover will pursue the thing and substantiate every contention made. I also hope that he will not be satisfied with this, but also will pursue those non-Christian fronts which have been advocating Communism and plotting the overthrow of all governments."

"For some time," Father Coughlin said, "they have been praising me, holding meetings in my name, and

pretending to collect money for my support. . . . I have roundly disavowed them.

Moreover, following October 25 of last year, they sent me a check of some \$1,000 which I returned to them in a public manner, telling them that I would not accept any such kind of money and advocating my followers to have nothing to do with such organizations."

Among objects marked for bombing, Mr. Hoover said, were the buildings of the Jewish Daily Forward, a newspaper, the Daily Worker, Communist party organ, and the Cameo Theater, which shows Soviet films in Times Square.

### 17 Men Held.

The names of the 17 and information on each as given by Mr. Hoover:

Michael J. Bieme, 32, naturalized Irish-born citizen, corporal in the New York National Guard and a telephone company lineman.

William G. Bishop, believed born in Vienna, Austria, 39 years ago. Three times deported from Great Britain and three times from Belgium for activities not yet learned.

Macklin Boettger, 32, native of Pittsburgh, Pa., member of National Guard, either New York or Pennsylvania. Salesman for a washing machine company.

Andrew Buckley, 34, naturalized Irish-born citizen; sergeant, and qualified gunner in Company H, 165th Infantry, New York National Guard, employed as a tailor.

William H. Bushnell, Jr., 18, unemployed.

Claus G. Ernecke, 36, native of Berlin, Germany, who has taken out first citizenship papers. Member of the German American Bund. Served one enlistment in Troop A, 101st Cavalry, New York National Guard. Correspondence school salesman.

John F. Cassidy, electric light company clerk.

John F. Cook, 19, member of the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

John A. Graf, 23, public utilities clerk.

Leroy Keegan, 37, native of Chicago, member of the United States Naval Reserve.

George Kelly, 24, hotel employe.

Frank M. Malone, 25, department store employe.

John T. Prout, Jr., 29, a telegraph company employe; captain, 165th Regiment, New York National Guard.

Alfred J. Quinlan, 27.

John A. Vierbrock, 36, elevator mechanic, in whose Brooklyn home F. B. I. agents said they found cans of cordite and partly made bombs.

Michael Vill, 36, naturalized German-born citizen; Rapid Transit Co. enaufeur.

Edward Walsh, 23, unemployed; private in National Guard.

### Boston Police Raid

#### Christian Front Offices

BOSTON, Jan. 15 (AP).—Police seized membership cards and literature today from the New England headquarters of the Christian Front. Members of the police "radical squad" turned over the data to Police Supt. Edward W. Fallon, who announced earlier he had "no evidence whatever" of any revolutionary plans, but added there was "evidence that the group was anti-Semitic."

# REVOLT

# PLOT

207A-5-1/10/40

over



*Star*  
*P-A 1*  
*1/15/40*

**NEW YORK.—ACCUSED—**One of the 17 men (center, unidentified) accused of plotting to overthrow the United States Government is shown here between two officers on his way toward arraignment today. All the defendants who were arraigned pleaded innocent. Federal officials said seizure of the 17 had merely "scratched the surface" of a terrorist plot to overthrow the Government.

—A. P. Wirephoto.