

REVOLT FRONT URGED POLICE TO JOIN RANKS

Valentine Reveals N. Y. Undercover Drives

NEW YORK, Jan. 16 (C.T.P.S.). Undercover drives by the Christian Front to enroll members from the police department have been under investigation by Police Commissioner Valentine for more than a month, it was learned today.

The attempted infiltration of the department was exposed as U. S. Attorney Harold M. Kennedy, of Brooklyn, prepared for the grand jury evidence against 17 members of the Front, held in \$50,000 bail each for participation in a bizarre plot to overthrow the Government and set up a dictatorship, Hitler-fashion, in the United States.

Policeman Resigned

One specific instance of police membership in the Front was disclosed in December, Valentine admitted, but there was no punishment because the officer involved claimed to have withdrawn from the organization.

Sometime last September or October, it was learned, Lieut. Thomas Cavanaugh, at present awaiting trial after being suspended in the bail-bond racket investigation in Brooklyn, joined the Front. He was then attached to the Sheephead Bay Station.

When a patrolman sent a complaint to Commissioner Valentine that he was being treated shabbily by Cavanaugh because he refused to join the Front, Valentine directed Chief Inspector Louis F. Costuma to investigate.

Inspector Michael Murphy, confidential aide to Valentine, also was assigned to the inquiry. Soon thereafter Cavanaugh was "called on the carpet" at police headquarters, denied he was any longer a member of the Front or that in the brief period he was a member he ever sought to influence any one to join.

From other sources, it was learned that "several thousand" members of the police department had been approached, at various times, by persons asking them to join the Front. Most of these refused to join, it was said.

Jury Meets Tuesday

U. S. Attorney Kennedy and his assistants were studying documentary and other evidence given them by the FBI against the reputed conspirators. Kennedy plans to present evidence against the men before the grand jury on Tuesday.

In the inquiry as to the source of the 12 rifles seized by the FBI at the homes of some of the defendants, the National Rifle Association, in Washington, said two of the men were members, entitling them to buy Government arms through the director of civilian marksmanship at the War Department.

Herald

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