

# Terrorist Ringleader Exposed by 'Daily' as WPA Spy Gang Head

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William Bishop, Held in Bomb Plot, Once Gave Joint Interview with Senator Copeland in Drive to Discredit Relief

The William G. Bishop, arrested by the FBI as the ringleader of the terrorist mob of "Christian frontiers," was exposed in the Daily Worker nearly two and half years ago as leader of a fascist organization to spy upon WPA workers, operating from the office of the National Civic Federation, at 570 Lexington Ave.

This is the same man who on Sept. 11, 1937, gave a public press interview jointly with the late Senator Royal S. Copeland, who was then Tammany's candidate for Mayor in the primary. This "Capt. Norman Bishop," or Capt. William Norman as he then called himself, announced then that his organization of "6,300 who were fired because they were not Communists" will support Copeland's candidacy.

## PRESS ECHOED CHARGES

The Daily Worker, in a series of two articles on Sept. 15 and 16, 1937, gave a full account how Bishop jointly with a Russian czarist named William O. Lukas, formed the so-called "WPA Workers National Committee for Honest Work Relief."

Using the stationery of the National Civic Federation they circularized big business leaders for funds, pointing to their program of fighting "red" control of WPA and of planting spies on the projects to expose "Communists," as they called the members of the Workers Alliance.

It is this spy outfit on WPA that has been a source for much of the press publicity, in fashion at that time, calling for liquidation of WPA and charging that Communists ran it.

The Daily Worker then exposed how Bishop's office had been receiving a stream of spy reports daily at the 570 Lexington Ave. address just as any industrial spy agency operates.

## OLD 'MYSTERY MAN'

The political choice of Bishop's outfit was particularly influenced by the fact that Copeland's name was on the stationery of the National Civic Federation as an advisor. This the newspapers then published as a claim by Copeland that WPA workers support him. In reality, however, the "6,300 mem-



WILLIAM G. BISHOP

bers" turned out to be only several dozen spies.

Bishop's identity was just as much a mystery then as is publicly known about him today. When pressed by reporters to explain his military title, Bishop said he once served in the Canadian army.

Bishop's outfit was soon completely discredited and exposed. About a dozen of the spies he employed, remained unpaid and promptly threatened to bring suit against him and Lukas. Bishop claimed that he, as they, were employed by the late Ralph M. Easley who was director of the National Civic Federation, and joined them in a suit against the latter. The case came up before Magistrate Overton Harris on Sept. 22, 1937. They lost, however. The next time Bishop was seen publicly was when he jointly with John F. Cassidy, national president of the Christian Front (also arrested), addressed anti-Semitic meetings on how this country must get rid of the Communists.

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