

FR. COUGHLIN DEFENDS 17 HELD IN PLOT

'Takes His Stand' With
Christian Front

DETROIT, Jan. 21 (U.P.).—The Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, in a Sunday sermon criticizing newspaper accounts of the recent arrest of 17 men in New York on charges of sedition, "took his stand" today with the "Christian Front."

Coughlin Issues Statement

In a statement intended as an answer to persons who have accused him of inciting members of the Christian Front, to which some of the 17 allegedly belonged, Father Coughlin said:

"While I do not belong to any unit of the Christian Front, nevertheless I do not dissociate myself from that movement. . . I reaffirm every word which I have said in advocating its formation; I encourage the Christians of America to carry on in this crisis for the preservation of Christianity and Americanism more vigorously than ever, despite this thinly veiled campaign launched by certain publicists and their controllers to vilify both the name and the principles of this pro-American, pro-Christian, anti-Communist and anti-Nazi group."

Asks About Reds Here

Coughlin accused newspapers, by their treatment of the reported sedition plot, of placing the Christian Front "on trial."

He served notice upon "those responsible for Mr. (FBI Chief J. Edgar) Hoover's descent upon a group of Christian young men—among whom, possibly, there was at least one borer from within—that the real Christians of this nation will not beat a retreat."

He said "real patriots" were asking why, following publication of the Dies un-American activities committee report, the then Attorney General, Frank Murphy and Hoover did not "apprehend the 2,000 or more Communists working in the public buildings at Washington almost under their very eyes."

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