

Father Coughlin Backs the Christian Front

By United Press

DETROIT, Jan. 22—Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, discussing the 17 members of the Christian Front accused of plotting to overthrow the Government, said in his radio address yesterday that he was not a member of the organization, but urged support of it.

Father Coughlin criticized newspaper reports of the arrest of the 17 alleged seditionists. His statement was an answer to charges that he incited members of the "Christian Front."

"While I do not belong to any unit of the Christian Front," he said,



FATHER COUGHLIN

"Nevertheless, I do not disassociate 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."

(When the sedition case was made public last week by J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Father Coughlin disavowed any connection with the Christian Front.)

TALKS OF REAL PATRIOTS

Father Coughlin charged that newspapers, in reporting the alleged sedition plot, had put the "Christian Front on trial," and he warned "those responsible for Mr. 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 demanding to know why Mr. Hoover and Frank Murphy, now a Supreme Court justice but then Attorney General, did not "apprehend the 2000 or more Communists working in the public buildings at Washington" following publication of a report of the Dies Committee investigating un-American activities.

OTHER RIFLE CLUBS

"These 2000 belong to no Christian Front, I assure you," Father Coughlin said, "and they have not been apprehended or even expelled from their Government positions."

He said he couldn't understand why the F. B. I. had investigated "the rifle club" to which he said the arrested members of the Christian Front belonged and, at the same time, had not inquired into the rifle groups of the "Communists and Nazis, the rifle units of the C. I. O., the rifle units of the Transport Workers."

"I speak of these things to indicate the need for establishing a genuine Christian front modeled upon the principles of Christ . . . A Christian front that is tolerant with saint and sinner, with Catholic, Protestant and Jew, but a Christian front that is not tolerant with the propagation of ideologies of sedition or treachery aimed at the destruction either of our form of Government or our Christian ideals," he said.

The radio priest mentioned the release of Harry Bridges, Pacific Coast maritime leader, from charges of being a Communist and therefore an undesirable alien. He referred to a "proved" statement of Mr. Bridges which he said was seditious.

INQUIRY TO BE EXTENDED

The Justice Department's grand jury investigation of the "Christian Front" will be extended to include examination of activities of others "working for similar unlawful ends," it was announced today.

Atty. Gen. Robert H. Jackson revealed this in a statement announcing that the "scope" of the "Christian Front" investigation would be broad enough to present a "clear identification of any persons or groups who have provoked or financed or otherwise conspired with these defendants."

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