

Father Coughlin Aids 'Christian Front' as 'Friend of Accused'

Jan 1-1/27/40

Jackson Broadens

Probe of Alleged Plot
To Overthrow U. S.

By the Associated Press
NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—A broad-
ened grand jury investigation was
promised today in the Government's
revolution conspiracy case against
17 "Christian Front" defendants,
as the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin,
calling himself a "friend of the ac-
cused," came to their defense.

The 17, arrested last Sunday in
raids that also netted arms, ammuni-
tion and bomb-making parapher-
nalia, are in jail in lieu of \$50,000
bail each. Each says he is innocent
of any attempt to overthrow or
sabotage the Government.

Attorney General Jackson said
in Washington last night that the
grand jury meeting this week in
Brooklyn would cover the activities
"of any individual or group, wherever
located, who may have aided, abetted,
directed, financed or facilitated" the
defendants.

Jackson Calls for Evidence.

"I have asked United States Dis-
trict Attorneys John T. Cahill of
New York and William J. Campbell
of Chicago to co-operate by furnish-
ing all helpful evidence in their
possession. These instructions do
not constitute an accusation against
any person involved, but only call for
a thoroughgoing inquiry in accord-
ance with our traditional grand jury
system," Mr. Jackson said in a
statement.

He said the investigation also was
aimed at supporters "of any other
subversive group working for similar
unlawful activities."

Father Coughlin explained in his
regular Sunday broadcast from De-
troit that "I do not belong to any
unit of the Christian Front; never-
theless, I do not disassociate myself
from that movement. Therefore, I
reaffirm every word which I have
said in advocating its formation. I
encourage Christians of America to
carry on its formation."

"Insofar as the public press—not
the Department of Justice—has
placed the Christian Front on trial,
insinuating that it is a radical move-
ment and asserting that it is com-
posed entirely of crackpots, I take
my stand beside the Christian
Fronters."

He said that, "recognizing also
that in one sense the opposition to
Communism is on trial, I freely

(See COUGHLIN, Page A-5.)

Coughlin

(Continued From First Page.)

choose to be identified as a friend
of the accused."

J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the Fed-
eral Bureau of Investigation, has
said the 17 had been training to
set up a Hitlerlike, Jew-baiting
government in this country.

Shortly after the men were jailed,
the Justice Department was asked
by 16 persons—including Prof. Har-
old C. Urey of Columbia University
and Robert W. Searle, general sec-
retary of the Greater New York
Council of Churches—to investigate
any possible connection Father
Coughlin might have with the ar-
rested men.

The radio priest's address last
night was heard at a Christian
Front rally in the Bronx, before
which Albert Gunnison, the move-
ment's Bronx leader, said, "The
Christian Front will see that these
men get a fair trial, even if every
Christian Front man lands in jail."

Star
Blue line
P-1
1/27/40