11. 7. June

COUGHLIN SUPPORTS CHRISTIAN FRONT

While Not a Member, 'I Do Not Disassociate Myself From Movement,' Priest Says

By The United Press,

DETROIT, Jan. 21—The Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, in a Sunday sermon priticizing newspaper accounts of the recent arrest of seventeen men in New 1965, in Charles of plotting to overthrow the United States Government, took his stand today with the Christian Front.

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

"While I do not belong to any unit of the Christian Front, nevertheless, I do not disassociate my self from that movement. I reaffirm every word which I have said in advocating its formation; I rencourage the Christians of America to carry on in this crisis for the preservation of Christianity and Americanism, more vigorously than ever despite this thinly velled exampsign launched by certain publiciests and their controllers to villipot the name and the principles of this pro-American, pro-Christian, anti-Communist and anti-Nazi group."

Iwhen the arrests in New York were announced a week ago last night, Father Coughlin in Detroit told The Associated Press that he "roundly disavowed" the "specific" Christian Front involved in the conspiracy charges but he always had advocated "a Christian Front" to combat Nazism and communism.]

Newspapers Are Assailed

Father Gougiffin accused newspapers, by their treatment of the reported plot, of placing the Christian Front "on trial." He served notice upon "those re-

He served notice upon "those responsible for Mr. [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 Committee activities report, the then Attorney General, Frank Murphy, and Mr. Hoover did not "apprehend the 2,000 or more Communists working in the public buildings at Washington almost under their very eyes."

ton almost under their very eyes."
"These 2,000 belong to no Christian Front, I assure you, and they have not been apprehended or even expelled from their government positions," Father Coughlin said.

He referred also to the release of Harry Bridges, West Coast maritime leader, from charges of being an undesirable alien and pointed to a "proved" statement of Bridges he indicated he considered seditious.

indicated he considered seditious. Father Coughlin expressed be-wilderment that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had investigated the rifle club to which some members of the Christian Front belonged, while failing to inquire into the rifle groups of the "Communists and Nazis, the rifle units of the C. I. O., the rifle units of the Transport Workers."

He disagreed with reports that twelve Springfield rifles had been seized by agents in their arrests of the persons taken into custody on

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charges and held that of the weapons confiscated

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"Fifther Countill, The Brooklyn Tablet, Social Justice and their many abettors and sympathizers must bear the direct responsibility for the plight of these seventeen young men. For months The Tablet's correspondence columns have been the free public forum for the national director of the group, John F. Cassidy. It will not do to say that divergent views have appeared in the same column—letters in that column are picked and chosen, and besides, that is selling out of it."

The editorial quotes Father Coughlin as saying, "The Christian Way is the peaceful way until, all argument having failed, all civil authority having failed, here is left no other way but the way of defending ourselves against the invaders of our spiritual and national rights," and adds:

"That, too, is eely writing. But he, himself, supplies a clue to his real meating: Call this inflammatory, if you will. It is inflammatory."

"Well, the flames reached the

he, himself, supplies a clue to his real meating: Call this inflammatory, if you will. It is inflammatory. "Well, the flames reached the hearts of seventeen—perhaps many more of whom we know nothing; they acknowledge the leadership of the men who set them afire, and they are in jail awaiting frial, but Father Coughlin says he had nothing to do with it. 'Buy Christian for Christians of the men who set them afire, and they are in jail awaiting frial, but Father Coughlin says he had nothing to do with it. 'Buy Christian for Christians Front held a rally in Ebling's Casino, 156th Street and St. Ann's Avenue, the Branx, last night. Before the meeting opened Albert Gunnison, whic was described as the leader of the movement in that borough, declared that "the Christian Front believes in the ideals expressed by these men." He referred to the seventien under arrest. "The Christian Front will see that these men get a fair trial even if every Christian Front man lands the jail."

During the meeting, which was guarded by seventy-five policemen, the audience of 1,500 listerned attentively and for the most part in silence to a halfdozen speakers. As the meeting draw to a close at 11 P. M., 150 members of the Christian Mobilizers entered the hall, marched down the middle aisle, led by two men carrying an American flag and the Christian Mobilizers' embleth, and gave the organization's salute. For a few moments there was confusion as the newcomers were ordered to leave. The Mobilizers withdraw and, when some of their members tanted a bit, they were shoved out of the hall. The potice did not interfere as the Christian Mobilizers were being ejected.