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COUGHLIN SUPPORTS CHRISTIAN FRONT

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**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 criticizing newspaper accounts of the recent arrest of seven men in New York on charges 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 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 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 Coughlin accused newspapers, by their treatment of the reported plot, of placing the Christian Front "on trial."

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."

"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.

Father Coughlin expressed bewilderment 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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