

Mayor Conceals Reports On 'Christian Mobilizers'

Leaders of Organization Have Long Criminal Records; Investigation of Police Membership Also Concealed

When the Department of Justice on Jan. 14 arrested seventeen leaders of the fascist "Christian Front" and seized a quantity of arms, ammunition, bombs and fuses, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover's G-men not only overlooked Father Charles E. Coughlin, inspirer of the anti-labor anti-Semitic terror plot, but also an organization known as the "Christian Mobilizers," which pledged mutual aid to the "Christian Front" terrorists.

Evidence against the "Mobilizers" has been submitted to Mayor LaGuardia.

Last Summer—before the Department of Justice began its probe of the "Christian Front"—Mayor LaGuardia had launched an investigation of the "Front," the "Mobilizers," the "Bund" and the Union for Social Justice of Father Coughlin.

For a reason never made public, the Mayor never revealed the contents of two bulky reports on activities of the fascist terrorists handed him by his investigators, but it was learned that important facts about the "Christian Mobilizers" were contained in the reports.

The Mayor's investigation, conducted by Nathan Frankel, former labor secretary to the Mayor, and Byrnes McDonald, another secretary, was commenced after the Mayor received two large folders full of letters from citizens pointing to terrorism on the part of the so-called "Fronts."

Here are some of the findings submitted by the Mayor's probes late last Summer:

EDWIN WESTPHAL, advisory board member of the "Christian Mobilizers" and member of the German-American Bund, appeared on the platform and said in behalf of his organization: "What we need is another Hitler or Franco."

Westphal's record in the files of the New York City Police Department follows:

Nov. 21, 1929—Indicted for burglary, second degree; grand larceny, second degree, and receiving stolen goods. Pleaded guilty to burglary, third degree. Sentenced Dec. 13, 1929.

Sept. 27, 1929—Arrested for burglary, but witness (stepfather) withdrew charge.

July 14, 1930—Convicted in 5th District Court, Queens, as wayward minor. Sentenced to N. Y. State Reformatory.

Feb. 17, 1937—Convicted for violation of the copyright law. Sentence suspended.

July 1, 1937—Convicted of violation of copyright law. Sentence of 60 days suspended.

Aug. 13, 1939—Convicted of dis-

orderly conduct. Sentenced to six months probation.

JOHN ZITTER, former captain of the "Christian Mobilizers" Guard Unit and now a street speaker for the organization. He is notorious for his Nazi-styled inflammatory speeches, is an inciter of racial hatred and civil strife against labor and Jews. His record:

Nov. 3, 1934—Arrested for burglary. Later he and his accomplice confessed the commission of four other burglaries. Sentence suspended and placed on probation.

Aug. 26, 1939—Served with court summons for inflammatory speech delivered at street meeting the day before in the Bronx.

JOHN J. OLIVA, captain of "Christian Mobilizers" Guard Unit. He trains the young members of the "Mobilizers" in jui jitsu, boxing, wrestling, street fighting tactics, drilling and rifle practice.

His qualifications:

Jan. 14, 1931—Committed to Children's Court as a delinquent after being arraigned for stealing an automobile.

Oct. 11, 1934—Arrested for attacking and raping a woman in Central Park and stealing her purse. Sentenced to penitentiary.

His psychiatric report shows he is an "emotionally immature type of personality deviate" with "neurotic tendencies of moderately complicated nature."

JOSEPH HARTERY, street speaker for the "Mobilizers."

His record:

Jan. 7, 1932—Arrested and charged with receiving, offering or agreeing to receive two persons for the purpose of prostitution, lewdness and assignation. Sentenced to 30 days.

Dec. 21, 1934—Attempted to attack a fellow worker with an axe. Discharged from job.

Dec. 14, 1938—Arrested for threatening a man with a clasp knife. Sentenced to three days in workhouse.

Feb. 14, 1939—Arrested for defacing seats in a courtroom. Sentence suspended.

Aug. 31, 1939—Fined \$10 for disorderly conduct at street meeting.

EDMUND VINCENT BURKE, speaker for the "Christian Mobilizers." Serves as chairman of "Mobilizer" meetings. Praises Hitlerism, damns Jews and urges economic

ruination of Jewish businessmen.

His qualifications:

Aug. 31, 1926—Arrested and charged with breaking and entering a jewelry store and stealing a tray of diamond rings. Prior to his arrest he abandoned his wife in a pregnant condition, destitute and with two children.

A physical examination revealed he was retarded mentally and suffering with Huntington's Corea (St. Vitus Dance) and was therefore a dangerous and irresponsible member of the community.

The Mayor's investigators attended meetings and gatherings of the "Mobilizers" the "Fronts" the Bund and the Union for Social Justice.

In most cases, it was learned, police stenographers took transcript of speeches of the leaders. Arrests were made in some cases for disorderly conduct. But the investigators complained that few convictions could be obtained in court, due to the sympathetic attitude on the part of some judges.

It was also learned that an investigation was conducted in the ranks of the Police Department where it was charged that a large number of police were affiliated with the fascist "Front" organizations. None of the results of these investigations has been made public. Nor was there any public report on action if any was taken, to curb and halt fascist organizations among the police.

The only official public report concerning the Mayor's investigation was made in a statement last fall to the Jewish press. This statement, it was said, was made to "allay public fear."

Since the arrest of the seventeen Christian Front terrorists more than a week ago it was reported in official circles that official action against the fascist "Fronts" has declined. What will come out of the two reports submitted to the Mayor is not known. But it is known that the fascist "Fronts" are still an extremely active menace to the 7,500,000 people of New York City.

What is the City administration doing to halt this menace?

Workers
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