

News
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27 New York Policemen Are Members of 'Front'

By United Press

NEW YORK, Feb. 15—Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine's poll of New York's 18,314 policemen shows 407 were Christian Front members; 27 still are members and six refuse to commit themselves.

The poll was ordered by Mayor La Guardia after 17 Christian Front members had been charged with plotting to overthrow the Government. The Mayor said G-men had reported many policemen had joined the Front.

Announcing the result, Mayor La Guardia said most of the 407 had joined the Front believing it sought to further religion and combat atheism. He did not say what would be done about the 27 who still belonged or the six who refused to answer, but announced:

"The Police Department of this, or any other city, must be kept from any entangling alliances with any kind of organization that might at any time create a disturbance."

He said the Christian Front was most active last spring and summer. During that period there were 228 arrests, including 109 for illegal acts connected with anti-Semitic activities and 127 for resistance of anti-Semitism.

At the height of the activities, he said, "the gatherings could no longer be termed as meetings, but had degenerated into demonstrations. Speakers invariably indulged in inciting racial hatreds, condemning in abusive and very often obscene language high officials of the U. S. Government, state and city."

He said complaints were received from committees of distinguished citizens of all religions and that "every possible consideration for the protection of civil rights of all was given."

Of police membership in such organizations, he said "the very nature of police duties makes it imperative that police officials remain neutral."