

Mayor Finds 27 Policemen Are in 'Front'

407 Others Admit They
Resigned Membership
Before Survey Began

All Deny Fascist
Or Communist Link

6 Fail to Answer Poll
Sent Out to 16,909 Men;
No Others Are Planned

Mayor F. H. LaGuardia announced yesterday that a preliminary report submitted to him by Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine showed that only twenty-seven members of the Police Department admitted, in answer to questionnaires circulated among 16,909 of them, that they were at present members of the Christian Front. Four hundred and seven policemen said that at one time they had been granted membership in the Front, upon application, but that they had resigned voluntarily before the circulation of the questionnaires was begun last Thursday.

The Police Department has 18,314 members. Because 1,405 of them have been on vacation or sick leave during the last week, they did not receive questionnaires. As soon as they have received them and have answered the questions the results will be made public, Mayor LaGuardia said.

He said that of the 16,909 policemen questioned, only six had declined to answer. The Mayor said Commissioner Valentine would investigate these cases and make a separate report on them. All who answered the questionnaires denied that they belonged to any Communist or Fascist body.

Recalls Charter Provision

Mayor LaGuardia said it was necessary that the Police Department "be kept from any entangling alliance" with subversive organizations. He recalled the provision of the city charter prohibiting policemen from joining political clubs and the departmental requirement that "the police officer must have no allegiance, commitment or obligation above that which he owes to the department and the city in the performance of his duties." The Mayor recalled also the policy of forbidding policemen to join labor unions.

The police questionnaires were prepared by Commissioner Valentine, at the direction of the Mayor, when it was rumored that many policemen, perhaps 1,000 or more, were members of the Front. Although the Federal Bureau of Investigation informed the Mayor that at least ninety-four members of the Fire Department belonged to that organization, he said that questionnaires would be circulated only in the Police Department and not in other departments of the city, because of the special character of police work, requiring policemen to be neutral on controversial issues.

Text of Mayor's Report

The text of the Mayor's report, written in the third person, follows:

"Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine has submitted a preliminary report on the membership of police officials in the Christian Front. There are 18,314 men in the department. Of these 1,405 are on vacation or on sick leave, leaving 16,909 presently on duty. Of these, all but six have replied to the questionnaire. The count in the report indicates 407 members of the department had at one time applied for and received membership in this organization. All but twenty-seven have dropped their memberships.

"It is clear that the vast majority of the men who at one time or another had membership joined the organization in the belief that it was a religious organization devoted to promoting religion and combating atheism. The men who joined belonged to various Christian denominations. All previous mem-

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