

407 Cops Once Joined Front Only 27 Still Members, Mayor Announces

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Of 16,909 policemen who answered the questionnaire on membership in various organizations, 407 acknowledged that they had been members of the Christian Front, Mayor La Guardia announced last night.

Only 27 still were members at the time the questionnaire was circulated, the others having dropped out of the organization.

Six policemen refused to answer the questionnaire, and it was announced that Commissioner Valentine will investigate their cases and make a report on them.

No policeman admitted membership in any Communist, Fascist or other subversive organization.

1,405 Answers to Come

The commissioner still has to hear from 1,405 men who are on vacation or sick leave.

In making public the replies, the Mayor said that he assumed all responsibility for making the inquiry. It is necessary, he said, that the Police Department be kept "from any entangling alliance," recalling that the city charter forbids policemen to belong to political clubs and that regulations deny them the right to join labor unions.

In a statement reviewing activities of the Christian Front, the Mayor said, in part:

"The activities of the Christian Front have been a matter requiring police attention for about one year. Complaints commenced coming in to both the Police Dept. and to the Mayor of the character of the meetings, the language used and the avowed purpose of the organization as expressed by its speakers and literature.

Other Groups Included

"It is but fair to state that the activities of other organizations, and there were three or four very active this Spring and Summer, were becoming confused, and that some of the organizations were as bitter in their denunciations of officials and racial groups in our city and country and more violent than the Christian Front itself. The questionnaire included these organizations. . . .

"A few weeks ago, some members of the Christian Front were arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The charges were most serious, in that the arrests were based on information that these men had been preparing to incite riots, to take over public buildings such as arsenals, customs and police and to establish a reign

of terror to embarrass law-enforcing officials of the city, State and Federal Government.

"The immaturity of the young men arrested, their visionary plan to overtake the government, all indicate that some master mind or minds, not yet disclosed, were working on these young men and the membership of these various organizations, encouraging and inducing them to wrong doing, disloyal and criminal acts. . . .

Reach Nuisance Point

"The Mayor was officially informed that a large number of the members of the Police Dept. were members of the Christian Front. Information included the fact that promoters and leaders often referred to the police membership. The inquiry was then ordered.

"The activities of the Christian

Front and other organizations reached the point this summer that they were a nuisance not only to the citizens of this city, but created a police problem. During the height of the activities of the organizations 238 arrests were made. Of these, 112 were found guilty. The police, in all these cases, acted intelligently and impartially.

"One hundred nine arrests were made because of alleged unlawful acts in connection with anti-Semitic activities. One hundred twenty-seven arrests were made because of resistance and opposition to anti-Semitic activities. It will thus be seen that the demonstrations and gatherings were causing actual disturbance and conflict among the people of this city and required the most careful, intelligent and impartial policing."