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## Missing 'Front' Defendant Is Found Hanged

### Police Call It Suicide But His Lawyer Hints at Murder

Claus Gunther Ernecke, missing defendant in the trial of 17 men charged with conspiracy to overthrow the government, was found dead yesterday in the cellar of an apartment house. He had hanged himself.

Ernecke failed to appear in federal court Friday when the trial was resumed and his bail of \$7,500 was forfeited.

Ernecke was a German who had taken out first citizenship papers and a member of the New York National Guard.

Denis Healy, chief prosecution witness at the trial, testified this week that it was through Ernecke that he was introduced into the Christian Front whose members he accused of plotting various acts of violence designed eventually to overthrow the government.

The trial is in adjournment until Monday because of Healy's collapse late Tuesday during a cross examination.

When Ernecke failed to appear federal authorities began a hunt for him.

His body was found by Michael O'Neill, superintendent of the apartment building where Ernecke evidently had been hiding out. Leo Healy, lawyer for 11 of the defendants, including Ernecke, had told newspaper reporters that he had talked with Ernecke on Thursday afternoon. He said Ernecke had told him his life had been threatened.

Healy said that Ernecke may have been kidnaped. "He may have been murdered or he may have committed suicide."

"But I don't believe he fled," Healy added.

The attorney was told that the authorities believed Ernecke had committed suicide.