

Christian Front Men Deny Guilt Amid Uproar

By the Associated Press

New York, Feb. 7.—In a courtroom loud with the mutterings of their sympathizers, 17 Christian Front members accused of plotting an anti-Semitic campaign with bombs and terror pleaded not guilty today to charges of seditious conspiracy to overthrow the Government and conspiracy to steal Army ammunition and explosives.

An indictment charging them with conspiring with other "persons unknown" was handed up a short time before to Federal Judge Matthew T. Abbruzzo in Brooklyn. Bail ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 was fixed.

This was a material reduction from the \$50,000 bond originally set for each defendant, but the murmurs from among the 500 spectators apparently were directed mainly at the fact that Judge Abbruzzo had refused to make further reductions.

Only after U. S. Marshal Arthur Jaeger had hurriedly assembled nine deputies was the uproar stilled. In the meantime, the judge had threatened to have the room cleared, and Arthur Garfield Hays, counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, had been seized by the arms by two deputies and escorted toward a chair.

Hays had attempted to speak about the matter of bail and the chief objector to his attempt was Leo Healey, counsel to one of the defendants, who told the court: ". . . He has nothing whatever to do with this client . . . and I request that the court forbid him permission to speak."

Protesting, Hays sat down for the remainder of the proceedings and later told reporters he planned to try to bring about a bail reduction.

Believed seeking dictatorship

"We need hardly point out," he said, "that if the charges here are sound there is no group in the community that would condemn the in-

tolerance of the defendants more than ourselves . . .

"We point out that however misguided people are, yet where the crime charged is political in nature the defendants are likely to be sincere in their beliefs and in an endeavor to justify themselves are more likely to appear at trial than is the ordinary criminal."

The 17 were arrested 3½ weeks ago by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, whose chief, J. Edgar Hoover, asserted their ultimate aim had been the establishment of a dictatorship and the eradication of Jews.

Conviction on both counts of the indictment could bring maximum penalties of 8 years in prison and \$15,000 in fines.