

Harvey, Friend of K K K, Sheds Tears for 'Front'

Public Fought Long Against Terrorists Before FBI Took Belated Action; Arrests of Leaders Called Small Beginning

By George Morris

Borough President George U. Harvey of Queens has the distinction of being the only public official, thus far, who has had the audacity to defend the "Christian Front" terrorists.

Addressing the Richmond Hill post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars last Wednesday, he protested against the high ball set for these plotters who were caught with an arsenal, bomb making equipment, and plans to assassinate people.

Harvey, who gained national notoriety as a fascist on his suggestion three years ago that police should be equipped with rubber hoses to handle "radicals," said at the meeting:

"They're Americans. Bail for them was set at \$50,000. But look at Browder. He is at liberty in only \$7,000 bail."

As far as is publicly known, no link between the Borough President and the "Christian" fronters has yet been discovered. But his indignation over their treatment recalled Mr. Harvey's own membership in the Ku Klux Klan, an organization with a similar program of race hatred and labor-baiting.

K.K.K. MEMBERSHIP

The Daily Worker of Sept. 16, 1936, exposed Harvey's membership in the American Crusaders, foreign-born section of the K.K.K.,

without question become the U.M.W. has within that time grown to a membership of 600,000. It has same city 50 years later. For the the union miners reconvene in the There will be a lot to celebrate as ment between rival miners' unions. nus as the result of a peace settle- the U.M.W. was formed in Colum- fifty years ago, on Jan. 25, 1890. tion of the U.M.W.'s 50th birthday. will be a birthday party—a celebra- In part, the U.M.W. convention

vention. keep their eyes on the U.M.W. con- ganized workers of the nation will bor in the 1940 elections, the or- independent political action by la- peace, for social legislation and for For leadership in the fight for out of war.

brains," and that the whole plot was smashed.

The "Christian front" movement has duped thousands into its fold for at least two years. Men such as Father E. Coughlin and Rev. Edward Lodge Curran, mentor of "The Tablet," rallied their support. Reactionaries such as Harvey come to their defense.

The committee of prominent clergymen and educators of Brooklyn, has addressed a letter to Archbishop Spellman several months ago requesting that he take a stand on the "Christian front," but has not received a reply.

TERROR IN BRONX

The work of the misnamed "Christian Front" gangsters isn't something that was suddenly sprung on New York. Last August 13, the seriousness of their activities were emphasized when a mob of over 700 of them injured several South Bronx policemen and marched on the Alexander Ave. station. This was the climax of their "Buy Christian" rally, which was marked by

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the most vicious insults against Jews that had ever been heard in New York.

To combat this and similar activity, Bronx citizens formed committees to uphold tolerance and democracy, with clergymen of many denominations, educators, and civic leaders upon them. There is the Interfaith Council; the Bronx Citizens Committee for Democracy; the South Bronx Tolerance Committee and local bodies in various neighborhoods where the "Christian Mobilizers" conducted their provocative meetings.

They came to public officials with pleas for investigations, and other action, but usually met with an explanation that they either have no authority to act or that there are no laws upon which such gangsters could be jailed.

In Brooklyn's Flatbush area the activities of the "Christian Front" store-window breakers became so provocative and violent, that last summer the people of the Kings Highway and 17th St. area rallied more than 10,000 to demand that anti-Jewish meetings on that corner be banned. The police eventually banned the meetings. In one case a church of one of the clergymen who did not approve of their activities, was stoned.

Things reached a point where the Mayor ordered an investigation of the activities of the "Christian Front," with Nathan Frankel, former labor secretary of the Mayor and Byrnes McDonald, another secretary, conducting it.

The Mayor acted after he received letters from all sections of the city, enough to fill two large folders, citing instances of violations by the "Christian" frontiers and demanding that he do something. The result of that investigation has not yet been made public. It is known, however, that the investigators complained of the non-cooperation of a number of magistrates. Many "Christian" frontiers brought up on chiefly disorderly conduct charges, were dismissed. It is also known that there was considerable investigation in the police department in which the "Christian" Front had made special efforts to gain adherents.

In the light of all this the FBI arrest of the 17 is indeed a belated and small beginning.

Perhaps the most practical step to combat the scourge of anti-Semitism is the pending bill in the Council introduced by Councilman Walter R. Hart, Brooklyn Democrat, which makes it unlawful for persons to utter in public or publish remarks ridiculing and attacking persons because of their race, creed, color or nationality. The law aimed directly at the "Christian Front" would make anti-Semitism punishable as a misdemeanor by a prison sentence and a fine.