

McWilliams Gets 30 Days

Or \$50 Fine

SW 7/7/40

Anti-Semite Gets Only Light Sentence for Incitement

Joseph E. McWilliams, noisy and strutting chief of the so-called Christian Mobilizers, yesterday was convicted of disorderly conduct for roaring violent anti-semitic abuse during a street corner meeting in Yorkville June 21.

He was given the choice of a \$50 fine or 30 days in jail.

His lieutenant, James Stewart, was also convicted, but sentence against him was suspended.

The sentences were considered extremely light in view of the brawl-provoking character of McWilliams anti-Semitic incitement.

But McWilliams later told reporters he did not intend to pay the fine, and his lawyer declared he will seek an appeal.

PROVOCATIVE

Complainant in the case was Patrolman Edward J. O'Leary, who testified that McWilliams made violent anti-Semitic statements at a rally on the corner of 85th Street and First Ave. O'Leary said that McWilliams had denounced "Jew government," and had referred to Governor Lehman and Mayor La-

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Guardia as "the Jew governor" and "the Jew Mayor."

Magistrate Vincent J. Sweeney in announcing his verdict quoted from a Supreme Court ruling that "resort to epithets or personal abuse is not in any proper sense communication of information or opinion safeguarded by the Constitution, and its punishment as a criminal act would raise no question under that instrument."

During the trial McWilliams heaped abuse upon assistant prosecutor Whitman Knapp, calling him a "finger man for the Jewish gangsters."

Stewart in his testimony declared that he wanted to "crush once and for all the minority that controls 126 million Christians."

McWilliams currently is campaigning for Congress as the candidate of the so-called American Destiny Party, one of his own by-products.

A "FRONT" ALLY

McWilliams, although his Mobilizers seem to be an independent group, has close connections with the Christian Front, and once described his outfit as an "action arm" for the Christian Front.

During the trial Father Edward Brophy, a leader of the Christian Front, sought to testify as a character witness for McWilliams, but was prevented by the court from using the stand as a rostrum for his anti-Semitic specialty of assailing the Jewish people. Brophy was a principal speaker at the Christian Front "victory" rally on July 3rd.

McWilliams swears allegiance to Father Coughlin and once said he would like to get one million dollars from Adolph Hitler and use it to make a "nationalist America."