

# PLOT TO SHOOT CONGRESSMEN LAID TO FRONT

## Witness Says Leader Made Threat

NEW YORK, April 8 (U.P.). The chief Government witness at the trial of 17 men accused of conspiracy to overthrow the United States Government testified today that one of the defendants advocated "going to Washington and shooting 12 Congressmen to show that the Christian Front meant business."

The witness was Dennis A. Healy, who told the jury in Brooklyn Federal court that he had attended 10 meetings in which the defendants participated in 1939. At some of the meetings, Healy said, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation listened from hiding places. At others, recording devices were in stalled to pick up the conversation.

### Leader's Threat Told

The defendant who made the suggestion about shooting Congressmen, Healy said, was John F. Cassidy, alleged to be one of the leaders of the conspiracy which, the Government charged, was designed to institute a reign of terror in New York, assault Jews, dynamite public buildings and eventually seize the Government.

Quoting Cassidy's statements at one of the meetings, Healy said:

"He said the Christian Front could not openly advocate shooting Congressmen, but he himself would advocate going to Washington and shooting 12 Congressmen to show that the Christian Front meant business."

At various points in Healy's testimony, the defense objected that his statements were irrelevant, but was overruled by Judge Marcus B. Campbell.

### Mistrial Move Denied

Two motions for mistrial, based on the grounds that the defendants' constitutional rights were being violated, also were denied.

Healy's testimony took several hours and was a continuation of his narration of Friday, when he told of attending conferences with the defendants, most of whom were members of the Christian Front. At those meetings, he testified, plans were discussed for inducing the Communists to revolt, at which time the alleged conspirators hoped to take over the Government under the pretext of quelling the Communist uprising.