

T-H 4/12/40

**Plan to Wreck Utilities
Charged at 'Front' Trial**

NEW YORK, April 18 (U.P.). Peter J. Wacks, an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, testified today at the trial of 16 men charged with seditious conspiracy that a Christian Front group, to which some of the defendants belonged, plotted to "take over" the country by crippling all public utilities.

Wacks told a Federal court jury in Brooklyn that he had installed listening apparatus in the home of Denis Healy, chief Government witness. He said he heard several of the defendants congregated there elaborate on the plans by which they hoped to seize key Government centers after creating chaos by anti-Semitic rioting and dynamiting.

On September 12, 1939, Wacks testified after defense objections were overruled by Judge Marcus W. Campbell, the late Claus Guenther Ernecke, one of the alleged plotters, discussed with Healy the means by which the group hoped to achieve their ambitious program. He knew it was Ernecke, he said, because of his "heavy German accent." Ernecke committed suicide last week.

Ernecke told Healy, the witness said, that "business, professions, State and city governments" are controlled by Jews and unless the situation was "stopped" the country would be embroiled in a Communist revolution and the Jews would "take over."

In the event of the expected Communist uprising, he continued, the plan was first to put it down and then seize the Government by crippling vital centers.